THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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ROYAL ASIA

Summary of News.

Monday, 2nd March.

THE following telegram from Calcutta about the recent monster meeting appears in the *Bombay Gazette*: "A great open-air demonstration of the Hindu, Mahomedan, Jain, Buddha and other communities of Calcutta and the neighbourhood was held yesterday afternoon on the *Maidan* to protest against the Age Bill. The demonstration was a complete success in every way, even the blindest supporters of the Bill admit that Calcutta had never seen such a spectacle before. The permission to hold the meeting was applied for on Thursday, but was not obtained till late on Monday, when preparations began, but the apprehensions of the promoters, due to the shortness of time were completely belied by the result. The air of Bengal, surcharged with Intenstty of feeling, needed but the slightest touch to express itself in a most open and emphattc manner. A lac and-a-half of the people or upwards had collected from Calcutta and the adjacent places, and if a longer notice could have been given much more distant places would have supplied their men. From two hours before the advertised time, four o'clock, people streamed towards the Race-Course, where the demonstration was to be held, and the resources of the Tramway Company were taxed to the utmost after 5 o'clock when the Offices were closed. The mass of human beings began to swell, and before six a view from the Race-stand presented an ocean of surging heads. The adjacent thoroughfares all round were dotted with vehicles of every description. The collected mass of humanity, representing all Indian nationalities, creeds, and classes, was a most interesting and cheering spectacle. It was characteristically free from the rough element, while in groups as well as interspersed here and there, were men of the first rank in Calcutta Society, Zemindars, leading merchants, and distinguished Vakils, while the middle and trading classes seemed to have left the town in a body."

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—"However exaggerated the telegrams from Calcutta, regarding the 'monster' meeting, held on the *maidan* to oppose the Age of Consent Bill, may be, our own correspondent's impartial account was enough to falsify the supposition of the *Times'* Calcutta correspondent that the opposition to the Bill had received a serious, if not crushing, blow by the publication of Mr. Hume's letter. The meeting was noteworthy, if not, as showing the strength of popular feeling on the subject, at least for the intimation it conveys that the Bengali is beginning to understand the machinery of popular demonstration, employed 'at home.' The great crowds, the many platforms, and the several rhetoricians are characteristic far more of England than of India."

THE *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—"Three or four days ago, a Babu left his wife in a second class compartment in the Dum Dum Cantonment Railway station to buy some cigars. At this time half a dozen European soldiers entered that compartment. Perhaps the Babu was a reformer, or he would not have left his wife alone in the railway car at the Dum Dum Cantonment station; and the lady was also a little advanced for she had her shoes on, and not the usual veil of the Hindu lady proper. But the sight of the soldiers gave the poor lady a fright and she crouched in a corner of the compartment. The soldiers thereupon approached her, uncovered her face and began to molest her in various ways. The lady all but swooned away, In the meantime her husband came and as he tried to enter the compartment, a couple of soldiers blocked the way. There were no officials to protect the lady. The husband, however, saw a European lady in the next compartment whom he appealed to for protection. She promptly came to his rescue and remonstrated with the soldiers, but they were not in a mood to listen to her. With great difficulty, however, she at last persuaded them to give in. A crowd had meanwhile gathered, and the poor lady took that opportunity of entering another compartment." The authorities ought to institute a sifting enquiry into the matter, and have the soldiers punished by all means for their gross outrage to an unprotected lady, if the story be well-founded.

Tuesday, 3rd March.

THE *Home News*, of February 13, says:—"Sir Roper Lethbridge intends to withdraw his motion in favour of an opportunity being given to the House of a general discussion on Indian affairs on going into Committee on the Indian financial statement, and to second Sir W. Plowden's resolution on the subject. In view of the general feeling among Anglo-Indians in the House, it is expected that some concession will be made by the Government upon the subject."

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* has recently published some enlightened comments on Indian affairs. We quote two paragraphs in which a most-needed reform in the House of Commons procedure is advocated. The *Gazette* says:—

"The National Congress in Calcutta did quite right to adopt a petition in favour of the earlier consideration by the House of Commons of the Indian Budget; but we are not hopeful that the prayer will be granted, or that, if it were acceded to much good would ensue. Our Indian fellow-subjects, together with some good people nearer home, seem to think that the beggarly array of empty benches with which we are now so familiar is due to the postponement of the discussion until the closing days of the Session. Ten or eleven years ago, when the present Secretary of State for War held the office now filled by Sir John Gorst, the Indian Budget was introduced quite early—in the month of May. Was the House crowded with members anxious to show their interest in the affairs of England's vast dominions in the East? Not at all. The appearance of the Legislative Chamber was pretty much what it was on the 14th of Agust last, and what it will be when Sir J. Gorst, or whoever is then Under-Secretary for India, makes his annual statement during or after the dog-days of 1891. On the occasion to which we allude, Mr. Fawcett was interrupted in the middle of one of the best speeches on India he ever delivered by a grunt, and the records show that the debate was continued throughout the following evening in almost empty House—at times only two or three members being present.

"The real reason why the average member of Parliament absents himself from the House when the Indian Budget comes on is not so much that he is indifferent, as ministers say or because he thinks the subject intolerably dull, as certain critics declare. In nine cases out of ten he stays away because he does not feel inclined to listen to or take part in a mere academical disputation. He knows that the House of Commons, if every one of its 670 members talks until Doomsday, has not the power of reducing Indian expenditure to the extent of a single depreciated rupee. One way of enlisting the sympathies of Parliament and people would be to put some of India's home expenditure on the English estimates, reform approved, we believe, by two such dissimilar men as Mr. J. M. Maclean and Mr. Bradlaugh. Considering that the Colonial Office does not cost the colonies anything at all, is it, to say the least, quite fair that the far from flourishing Indian tax-payer should be required to pay for the whole of the salaries of the Indian Office establishment, from the Secretary of State down to the charwoman?"

A MOVEMENT is on foot at Northamton to raise a Bradlaugh Memorial Fund, which, it is suggested, should in the main at least, be invested in municipal funds, the interest being employed in the purchase of books for the Northampton Free Library. A proposal is also on foot among influential Natives of India, resident in England, to erect an Indian memorial to Mr. Bradlaugh. The proposal is that a fine monument of Indian marble, specially prepared in India, should be erected by the graveside at Woking Necropolis.

IN the House of Commons Mr. Stansfeld brought forward his one-man-one-vote motion which, in debate that followed, was supported by Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Chamberlain said that he agreed with the principle of the thing, but was opposed to it on the ground that it was an incomplete solution of the question. On the motion being put to the vote, it was rejected by a majority of one hundred.

THE Australian Federal Convention has been opened at Sydney. At a banquet the delegates testified that federation would tend to hasten the union of Britain with all her Colonies into a great Federated Empire.

AMONG the arrivals at Bombay by Monday's mail steamer was General Sir J. Dormer, now Commander-in-Chief of Madras.

THE Khojak Tunnel is now expected to be completed by the middle of July.

Wednesday, 4th March.

THE *Standard* states that a leading London firm which has become entangled in Argentine credit requires one million sterling to meet its claims, and that two Trust Companies have undertaken to support the firm, which there is some talk of converting into a limited company with a capital of four millions. The *Times* says that there is no cause for alarm, and that the difficulty is only a temporary one, since the firm in question is receiving effective assistance.

GENERAL Annenkoff is urging the Russian Government to extend the Trans-Caspian Railway to Saraks.

A PAPER manufactory under the auspices of several respectable zemindars of Behar is to be started at Patna under competent European supervision, and with this view the necessary plant and machinery are to be imported from England. The services of a competent foreman are also to be engaged and a certain well-known paper mannfacturer of England has been addressed on the subject. It is anticipated that the venture will succeed, as Behar possesses an abundance of the raw materials suited to the manufacture of paper.

A MIRUT correspondent informs a contemporary that "the large elephant which the Queen-Empress is presenting to the Sultan of Morocco, and which was despatched from here on February 28 for His Highness, caused a great deal of excitement at the railway station owing to his declining to leave his comfortable quarters for a questionable rise in life. Lieutenant Staines, the Assistant Commissary, by his patience and tact got the monster in the railway truck. It is rumoured that the Viceroy's *howdah* from Agra will be sent to make Her Majesty's gift complete."

THE Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway was opened for traffic throughout on the 1st instant, the first through mail arriving at Delhi on the evening of that day.

No sanction has yet been accorded by the Government of India to the scheme for expanding the water-supply of Simla, the matter being still under consideration.

THE Civil Service Commissioners were busy on February 5 (a London paper says) in examining the candidates for clerkships in connection with the taking of the census in London. "Although of course, these appointments must be only temporary, there were over seven hundred applicants for about eighty situations. The status of those who presented themselves to the examiners ranged through almost every social grade. Not only Burlington House but the Holborn Town Hall and another building were put into requisition, owing to the numerous aspirants for perhaps two months' employment, at the not extravagant salary of some ten shillings a day!" Worse than we have it in India.

HAROUN-AL-RASCHID—LANSDOWNE.—It is said that the Viceroy is in the habit of going out now and then in disguise in Calcutta for the purpose of sounding the feelings of the Natives on many vexed questions of the day, as well as to ascertain the state of contentment or ortherwise, which prevails amongst them under the British *regime*. A vernacular paper gives dates and places to prove that this is really the case.—*Indian Daily News.*

Capital says: "We learn that a small but powerful Syndicate has been formed in our city, under able management, for the introduction into Bengal of Mr. B. C. Schumacher's patent rice-husking machines. The Syndicate is about to be registered under the Indian Companies Act as the *Pneumatic Husking* (Schumacher's Patent) *Syndicate, Limited*. It is expected that Mr. Schumacher's invention will revolutionize the rice-milling trade by reason of the cheapness and simplicity of the system. Mills on the new plan are in course of construction in Burmah, Siam, and elsewhere. The share list of the Syndicate is closed."

MR. A. MILNER, the senior Branch Pilot of the Bengal Pilot Service, is appointed to act as Port Officer, Calcutta, while Captain Petley is absent on leave.

MR. PARNELL, speaking at Navan has denounced the anti-Parnellites, whom, he said, he would drive from Ireland and the House of Commons.

Thursday, 5thMarch.

A MINORITY of members of the Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives have reported in favour of free coinage, and state that they are confident of the ability of Government to maintain the double standard without European assistance.

THE *Englishman* says:—'FOR some days past Peshawar has been the scene of a curious and interesting commercial struggle. The flour dealers, on the one side, have formed a ring to send up the price of wheat *atta* to seven seers, and of jawar *atta* to nine seers a rupee. On the other, there has been a general rapproachment between the Hindus and Mohamedans of the district: a public meeting has been held, and upwards of thirty thousand rupees have been subscribed for the purpose of breaking down the "corner." It is expected that the Committee of the fund will be able largely to undersell the dealers, and possibly even to make a profit. The result will be awaited with general interest, not only in Peshawar, but in many of the large trade centres, since a conflict of this kind is of far more than local importance. Should the ring be successful, its example would assuredly be followed within a short time in almost every commercial centre throughout the country, to the irreparable damage of legitimate trade and widespread distress among the poor, upon whom the effect of such combinations falls most heavily. In the face of so grave an issue the public-spirited action of the citizens of Peshawar should command general sympathy and support."

DR. VIRCHOW has publicly recommended Professor Liebreich's remedy, which he believes to be better for laryngeal tubercles than Dr. Koch's.

THE draft agreement with Portugal in regard to the settlement of the Manica question published by the *Times* is declared to be premature.

THE Kumbh Mela at Hurdwar begins on the 27th of March, and ends on the 12th of April, the great bathing days. It is expected that on this occasion the gathering of pilgrims at Hurdwar will be the largest ever known, and the North-Western Railway Company are making arrangements to convey about twenty thousand passengers a day, in addition to the ordinary traffic.

To many who propose to visit Kashmir during the coming season, the news of the closing of the Gilgit Road will come as a disappointment. Officers and visitors are warned that, unless they are travelling on duty, they will be turned back by the Kashmir authorities should they attempt to pass Bandipura.

THERE is much anxiety in Ceylon just now concerning the projected increase in the military contribution of the island. A telegraphic despatch has been received from the Home authorities to the effect that the present contribution of £70,000 will be increased by £10,000 per annum during the next three years—a very heavy addition to the financial burden of the island, and especially serious at present, when the repeal of the paddy tax threatens to become a burning question.

IN the House of Commons Mr. Stanhope, replying to a question, said that he would consider a scheme to establish a regiment composed of gentlemen who have failed to pass the examination for commissions in the Army.

A SERIES of landslips occurred near Mudgorge Station, Sind, on the Peshin State Railway between the 26th and 28th ultimo. A length of about 500 feet of hill-side came down, filling up the cutting with mud and boulders, and obliterating about 1,000 feet of the railway, pushing it some 300 feet out of line. The Engineer in charge estimates that it will take a month to restore the line with favourable weather, but if rain continues it may take much longer, and further slips will occur. He hopes with favourable weather, to lay a temporary line for use in the meanwhile. Why not abandon it altogether?

IN the debate on the Navy Estimates, Mr. Pope Hennessy brought forward a motion to place ports and coaling stations under Naval instead of Military control, and urged that the experiment be tried in Indian and Chinese Seas. Lord George Hamilton admitted the dangers attending the present system, and promised to earnestly consider the matter. Meanwhile he would try experiments with small coaling stations in the South Pacific.

TEN years ago the population of Calcutta was 430,000, and now, apart from the natural growth of numbers, this total has been largely augmented by the additions made to the Municipal area by the inclusion of the Suburbs. It is too early to speak at all definitely of the outcome of the present Census, but it is believed that it will not fall short of 750,000. Even within the old area there has been a very considerable increase during the decade.—*Englishman.*

Friday, 6th March.

THE Census which was taken the other night was the twelfth that has been taken of the town of Calcutta. The previous enumerations were in the years 1800, 1814, two in 1821, 1831, 1837, 1850, 1866, 1872, 1876, and 1881. The first two of these enumerations were, however, estimates rather than attempts at accurate counting, and the results are given in even lakhs. In, 1800, 5,00,000, and in 1814, 7,00,000 are given as the number of inhabitants. Of the two Censuses in 1821 one which gave the numbers at 1,79,917 was conducted by the Town Assessors, and the other Census conducted by the Calcutta Magistrates gave it as 2,30,552. The figures for the population given in 1872 were 4,47,591, while those ascertained by the 1876 Census were 4,29,535. In 1881 the recorded population was 4,33,219. These figures refer, it must be remembered, to the old Municipality of Calcutta as it stood before a large portion of the suburbs were amalgamated with it by the Bengal Council Act II. of 1888. This addition more than doubled the area of the Municipality, and it is expected that it will nearly double the population.

THE rough total Census returns for the city of Madras show a population of over 450,000, or an increase of over ten per cent. in the past ten years.

THE total population of the city of Bombay from the Census returns shows 8,04,464 persons, made up of 5,06,128 males and 298,336 females.

THE Washington Senate has rejected the Brussels Convention for the repression of the slave trade, fearing it would interfere with private commercial enterprise.

THERE is a probability, it is said, of the Shah visiting India next year, on his way to the World's Fair at Chicago. Proceeding from San Francisco to New York, he will return home through Europe.

IT is stated by an English journal that Sir Evelyn Baring will shortly be appointed Ambassador at Constantinople, in succession to Sir William White, who is to retire from the diplomatic service on a pension.

IT has been decided not to have any formal opening of the Kidderpur Docks just yet, and not until they are quite finished and ready for use. Good progress has been made of late, and in a few weeks, in all probability, a beginning will be made by letting water into the tidal basin.

ON the second reading of the Indian Councils, Act (1861) Amendment No. 2 Bill, which is introduced by Sir John Gorst, MI. Walter M'Laren will move:—"That this House expresses its regret that, in proposing by this bill to increase the number of the additional members of the Indian Councils for making laws and regulations, no recognition is given to the elective principle." Mr. J. Maclean has drafted amendments which, if carried, will transform the resolution into one of satisfaction at the non-recognition of the elective principle, on the ground that it is "unsuited to the character of the Native population, and would be injurious to the interest of English rule in India."

THE latest reports received from Chingleput, North Arcot, Tinnevelly, shew that the condition of the standing crops of that district has generally been much benefited by the slight rains last month.

THE Merewether Graving Dock which now forms part of thePrince's Dock, Bombay, was formally opened on Tuesday by Lord Harris. The Governor in declaring the Dock open, trusted that the opening of that dock would be followed, as anticipated, by a great demand for its use and that they might see their harbour crowded with shipping and know that the dock was being put into use every day.

IN the case of the Bank of England *versus* Vagliano, the House of Lords has given judgment in favour of the former, the latter being held liable for the forgeries committed by their clerks, of bills to the amount of seventy thousand pounds.

THE Scotch Furnacemen have accepted the masters' terms, after a strike lasting twenty-one weeks.

A FINANCIAL panic has taken place at Buenos Ayres, where the Government has issued a decree closing the Bolsa Banks and customs for two days, owing to a run on a Provincial Bank.

ALTHOUGH Lord Salisbury is most anxious to come to some arrangement in regard to South America, Portugal refuses British conditions, and a settlement is therefore considered to be improbable.

A LIBERAL DONATION.—We are glad to hear that Babu Jogendro Kissore Acharja Chowdry, zemindar of Mymensing, has given a donation of Rs. 10,000 for the establishment of an Art School in his native country. He has also promised to give more money if necessary.

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Saturday, 7th March.

THE Government has decided to take over the Lawrence Asylum Press for its own use.

THIS year's Budget Statement, will appear, we are told, as a Resolution in the *Gazette of India*, there being no legislation required in connection with it. A long and elaborate appropriation report on the accounts of 1889-90 by Mr. Stephen Jacob, officiating Comptroller and Auditor General, appears in to-day's *Gazette of India*.

THE *Dainik* says that Colonel Ardagh, Private Sectetary to His Excellency the Viceroy, made use of the following expression in reply to the request, made for the Viceroy's presence on the *maidan* on the mass meeting:—"The Viceroy cannot go to a controversial meeting, where religious questions are to be discussed." This is more consistent with probability for the Viceroy or His Excellency's Private Secretary could not possibly characterise such a demonstration as we had at the *maidain* as a got up affair.

A MONSTER meeting of Hindus, representing all castes, was held at Delhi on the afternoon of the 21st ultimo, under the presidency of Pandit Behari Lall Vedantabagish. Many leading gentlemen were present. Proceedings were orderly throughout. Resolutions were passed protesting against the Age of Consent Bill.

A LARGE meeting of Konkanastha Brahmins was held at Tirumala Devasram, Cochin. It was resolved to memorialize the Government of India, protesting against the Scoble Bill as unnecessary and oppressive.

A *Vyabastha* against the Consent Bill has been given by several distinguished Pandits of Mithila, headed by Mahamahopadhyas Sri Kanharda Sarma and Sri Krishna Singh Thakur at a meeting, held at the Palace of the Maharajah of Darbhunga. In this document, several texts have been quoted from Manu, Yama, Parasara, Gobhil and others in support of the views, adopted by the Pandits.

THE President and Secretary of the Burra Bazar Dharma Sabha, on behalf of its members and also of the people of Burra Bazar, Calcutta, have sent a petition to the Governor-General in Council, praying that the Age of Consent Bill be not passed.

THE residents of the town of Comilla have submitted a Memorial, bearing 2,070 signatures, to the Viceroy in Council, praying that His Excellency in Council may be pleased "to abandon that portion of the Bill, which affects persons in relation of husband and wife."

A MEETING was held at Belgaum, on the 24th ultimo, to protest against the Bill.

THE inhabitants of Dhulia, in the Khandesh district of the Bombay Presidency, oppose the passing of the Age of Consent Bill on the grounds that no legislation has been proved to be necessary, since no instance of the offence to be guarded against is known to have occurred during the past thirty years; that the proposed law will interfere with essential religious ceremonies, the non-observance of which by Hindus is sinful according to their *Sastras*, and that the sense of the vast masses of the *Sastra*-abiding people is decidedly against the proposed interference.

AT a *jamat* of the Puna Mahomedans, held at Puna, on the 24th instant, Nawab Alimardankhan in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to protest against the Age Bill, as interfering with the marital ceremony and consummation, where puberty was attained before the proposed limit. There were Moulvis and Kazis present, and they spoke against the Bill.

ON Sunday, the 22nd February, a grand meeting was held at the instance of the members of the Chunapuker Haribhakti Pradayini Sabha, at the premises of Babu Sasi Bhusan Bannerji, No. 55, Chunapuker, Champatola, Calcutta, to protest against the Age of Consent Bill.

A MEETING was held on the 26th February at Chagdah to protest against the Age of Consent Bill.

A LARGE meeting, presided over by the learned Shankaracharya Rajra Jeshwaronand was held at Ahmadabad, on the 2nd instant, to protest against the Age of Consent Bill. Several Resolutions were passed, disapproving the Bill.

THE *Jessore Sammilani* says that nearly 200 petitions from every respectable village in the District of Jessore have been sent to the Government against the Age of Consent Bill.

THE Marhathi Brahmin Society at Cochin oppose Sir Andrew Scoble's Bill as against their religious belief and mischievous to domestic tranquility.

THE Madras Presidency is dead against the Scoble Bill, and can show healthy mothers under twelve.

AT a densely-crowded meeting of the Mahomedans, resident at Satara, held on the 24th ultimo, presided over by Kazi Vali Saheb and Khatiba of Satara, a Memorial to the Government of India was sent strongly protesting against the Age Bill.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1891.

THE REPORT ON THE SCOBLE BILL.

SIR JOHN GORST replying to a question said in Parliament that the Age of Consent Bill would not be withdrawn. The announcement was made simultaneously almost with the presentation of the report of the Select Committee, which took place on Friday last. There was an impression abroad that the Bill would be passed on that day, and numerous applications had been made for cards of admission, some of which were granted with the result that an eager and expectant crowd of native gentlemen were present at the Council meeting to watch as to how the opposition argument would be met. Nothing of the sort was attempted in the report of the Select Committee, and the Bill appeared to the majority of the Select Committee to be "open to no objection" except that the Committee concurred with the High Court at Fort William in thinking, that it is desirable that where an investigation by a Police officer was necessary, in cases between husbands and wives, no officer below the rank of an Inspector should be deputed. The only other concession made is that only Magistrates of the highest class should be permitted to take cognizance of the offence. We are not sure that this is a concession at all, for some body will now be empowered to take cognizance of the offence whereas under the original bill it was wholly non-cognizable. The supporters of the Bill who came up with numerous emendations and modifications will perceive now that their support only has been taken, but not their suggestions. Now, perhaps, they cannot support the Bill, and will join their country-men in one last effort to oppose it, and oppose it to some purpose. The Select Committee are in so great a hurry to have done with the whole thing that re-publication of the Bill as altered is not deemed necessary, and they recommend that it be passed as amended. This is certainly cool. Sir Romesh Chunder like the gallant Knight, as he is, is left to fight single-handed, and has written an elaborate and well-argued note of dissent which we reproduce in another column. There will be a formal debate on Friday next, and the bill will be passed either the same day or on Friday following. Victory may be as remote as ever, but the hastiness of Government only bids us gird our loins once more. The *Statesman* observes with great force: "They make no attempt to deal with the numerous objections that have been made to the Bill, but merely state that they have considered certain representations. Seldom, we should think, has a matter of so much importance been disposed of more curtly, or less sympathetically."

The whole of the report, short as it is, is a studied insult to public opinion. In a schedule some "representations" are set forth which the Select Committee are supposed to have considered in coming to the conclusion they have done. Among those actually named we miss the familiar names of the bodies and individuals whose opinion one should have thought would be attached some importance to. They, however, may be supposed to be included in the general category of "a large number of memorials and telegrams for and against the Bill" which comes last in the list and in an ignominious fashion. There is nothing to show the dates of these communications, what line of argument may have been taken on either side, or how the Select Committee meet these arguments. or if they care to meet them at all. In fact the bulk of the communications received as well as the very short time at the disposal of the Committee made it physically impossible for all of them to have been carefully examined or properly weighed by each and every one of the Select legislators, and probably the precis writing of the legislative department was all that was relied on to ascertain, if necessary, whether any particular document would be generalised as "aye" or "no." That the support of the supporters of the Bill has not been more largely utilized or quoted is but a poor compliment upon those concerned, but perhaps Sir Andrew Scoble no longer cares to go into particulars and run the risk of being given another slip, a humiliating sight that attended the introduction of the Bill in Council with the fanfire of Sastric support. The best judgment according to many judges is pronouncement of decree or dismissal, and the Select Committee either consider discretion the better part of valour, or want to show themselves so impervious to public opinion one way or the other as to put intentional slight on all that may have come before them. The Government is strong enough to pass and work any law it likes, no matter what the extent of its redundancy or inequity may be, but it is anything but fair to pretend to pass it in the name of the public. Anything may be forced down the throats of a weak people, but the Government of India is hardly in need of any such spirit of bravado by way of showing off its strength. Its strength would be amply displayed otherwise, namely, by showing that popular opinion has some weight with it, and that though it has a packed majority in Council, in matters relating to people's cherished religious rites and institutions, it does not care to swerve from the strictly constitutional path. It is unworthy of such a Government as we have that earnest and universal appeals should thus be disregarded, that the representations of the people should be consigned to the waste-paper basket, and that sweeping generalisations should be made without due enquiry and for the sole and single purpose of attaining an object in view—for maintaining one's *gir* in the matter. We have no hesitation in characterising the action of the Select Committee as singularly wanton and thoughtless and would appeal to His Excellency the President for saving the constitution.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE.

IN a recent issue while discussing Mr. Manmohan Ghose's opinion regarding the Age of Consent Bill we made the following observations:

"If we were allowed the liberty to discuss the reasons of the Hindu law of marriage we should say that it imposes an obligatory maximum limit of age for the marriage of Hindu girls; that the obligation was originally imposed on the girl as well as on her guardian, but that owing to unrecorded historical reasons the obligation is now confined to the latter and in a more intense degree than formerly.* * * We are bound to suspend our opinion regarding Mr. Ghose's suggestion (of a legal minimum of 12 years) until he declared what would be the sanction for the Hindu parent to see his daughter married *before* a certain age.* * We shall wait for an expression of opinion whether the proposal to shift the minimum age limit from 10 to 12 contemplates a proposal to introduce a new maximum age limit and whether a maximum of the kind such as the Hindu law prescribes is not really most conducive to the well-being of Society."

We will try to make amends for having introduced the mathematical jargon of maxima and minima in a homely question of marriage. We will narrate an anecdote. Two Hindu ladies were one day talking of Sir Andrew Scoble's Bill. The younger of the two said: "Never mind! it would be a gain to put off my daughter's marriage for sometime." "But, my dear," answered the other, "how about the marriage of your son? How would you like to have a young lady of 15 for your daughter-in-law?" "Oh dear. No!", was the rejonider, "a big-blown Bau! to be sure not!"

We dare say some of our readers would put down the elderly lady of our anecdote as a veritable ogress. We can assure them, however, that she is nothing of the kind. But to return to our subject. We may be permitted to ask on her behalf, how long the most advanced of our reformers are prepared to put off their daughters' marriage?

People are apt to be carried away by anything that strikes them at first sight. It seems so natural, so reasonable, for the girl to choose her partner in life, that the next question is stoutly discarded if it happens to be raised at all; and a third question which follows the second,—which follows invariably though at considerable distance,—is left to manifest itself only in the chapter of accidents.

The marriageable age of girls necessarily raises the question of her opinion as to the man she has to be married to. It is at once asserted that inasmuch as child-marriage practically deprives her of the right and opportunity of forming such opinion, the Hindu social institution stands self-condemned. On the other hand, the irrrepressible tradition or vanity about early Hindu civilization resents such off-hand condemnation. It is only when the controversial heat cools down that people perceive what after all is an obvious truth. After making every possible consideration for the judgment and freedom of the girl we are bound to leave a goodly margin for her parents to put in their authoritative voice in the matter. Nowhere in the world is the girl left to herself alone to choose her husband. And it is only reforming zeal which, if it could, at all overlooks the parent's concern in the matter.

There is, however, a third and somewhat remote question, and that is this: Who is to decide when opinions differ? Where the girl has an effective voice in her marriage, but has not an exclusive voice, difference of opinion must occur and the question is—how such difference would be settled? It is a vexed question and has not been satisfactorily settled anywhere in the world.

Dual control is often needful; but always difficult. And the present difficulty about the Hindu marriage law is not that the daughter suffers in her marriage by reason of the exclusive authority of the parent; but that two very large changes are simultaneously pro posed in the institution of marriage. It is only in the East, that parental authority is established so high in this respect. And what is proposed is, first that this parental authority should be shared with the daughter; and, then, without waiting to see how the change works it seems to be contemplated at once that whenever necessary the parental authority should cease to operate altogether.

Mr. Ghose's opinion, it may be observed, has been received with greater opposition in other quarters than by ourselves. The reason of it is, that the idea of choosing one's husband is revolting to the Hindu mind. "A big-blown Bau! to be sure not." That is the curt answer which comes from most of us. For ourselves we are prepared to coolly discuss how the girl could be made most happy. And thus we have been driven into the vexed question—what if the parent and daughter cannot agree?

In matters of this kind, however, one has to think so as to avoid all vexed questions. And thus we come back to another question: *viz.*, what did the Hindu sages of old think about it? We say "come back," for the moment we begin to accord to those sages some little brains like what we claim for ourselves and the glorious West, we perceive at once that they solved the social difficulty by developing the requirements of religion. They imposed as a religious duty the work of providing—not a husband but a *Bharta* —*i. e.* supporter for the daughter. It is impossible within the short limit of a newspaper article to discuss the position of the wife in the Hindu family. But we cannot omit to mention that whereas the Hindu law of Succession is very niggardly in regard to woman in general, whether as daughter, sister or widow, a provision for maintenance is indirectly but very imperatively made by the religious duty imposed in regard to marriageable girls.

If then we look upon marriage as a religious duty; and marriage of girls as duty of their parents, we come across two curious features in our marriage institution. This duty appears to possess potency of an unexampled kind. And it has become associated with a certain limitation of time. Situated as we are, between two cross fires of orthodoxy and heterodoxy, we dare not scrutinize into how it happens that this marriage-duty, as we have to call it, which is so peculiar to Hindus has been so vigorously enforced, for good or for bad. It is by no means a matter of merriment that any sort of pious duty should be so rigidly and so universally observed. Its merit is, and must be, a matter of opinion as between Eastern and Western thinkers. But looking at it simply as an important rule of life, the fact is significant that it is so imperatively observed. However,

let us now draw to a conclusion by referring to the limitation of time involved with the so-called marriage-duty.

Time is an essential part only of contracts in European Jurisprudence. The Hindu in his primitive 'barbarism' made it essential to pious duties. He may be put aside in the matter of the times of his *pujas* and *sraddhas*—but even that is very questionable. But is it possible for him to get shelved in the matter of his daughter's or sister's marriage? The Hindu simply declines to entertain the question. And the monster meeting in the *maidan* had no resolutions to frame at all. "A big blown Bau! to be sure not!" The girl must be married and married before a limit of time. That is how the Hindu feels. As a Patriot, however, we shall ask—what if the limit is removed? What if the restriction is dissolved in the interest of liberty and liberalism? What if the girl is given an additional measure of liberty—what if liberalism does away with an antiquated restriction?

Our fear is, that if the limit is removed a time may come when the parent will begin to enjoy the riddance of the pious duty and leave the girl to herself without even helping her to find a husband of her own choice. We have been pleased to notice the enthusiasm for Hindu religion which was witnessed at the monster meeting on the *maidan*. But we are cool enough to take this remote stage of the revolution into consideration. And we confess that we shudder to think of it.

We may not, therefore, recommend that the marriage burden should be shared by the parents with their daughters, or that the parents may be allowed the liberty of indefinitely putting off the date of marriage. It is possible that a slow change might help to preserve the traditional and religious sanctions about Hindu marriage, while the limitation removed with it was extended farther than it is at present. But some limit of time is indispensable, and until a fresh limit grows up, the physical change which occurs in the girl's life seems to us to be the most reasonable which could be devised by authority or evolved by social action.

POPULAR MOVEMENTS IN INDIA.

SIR WILLIAM HUNTER has contributed to the *Contemporary Review* an interesting paper on the subject which heads this article. He begins by pointing out that during the past year the Government has accepted the offers of troops made by the Feudatory Chiefs for the defence of the Empire, taken steps for reforming the Legislative Councils, and introduced a measure for raising the Age of Consent. The object of Sir William Hunter's paper under notice is to explain the influences now at work in India which have led to these three movements. In doing so, he reminds the British public of what he has said before, namely, that the India of the Queen differs widely from the India of the East India Company. He asks, what has brought about this change in the India of our days, and then proceeds to answer the question:—"It is an uprising of Indian intellects, an awakening of Indian thought and Indian aspirations, such as the world has not seen since the Revival of Learning in Europe. Until thirty-seven years ago, such education as existed in India rested chiefly on a sectarian basis. It was principally conducted by the priestly class of the Hindus, the Maulvis of the Mahomedan mosques and the missionaries of various Christian bodies. During the last thirty-seven years Indian education has been reorganised on a non-sectarian basis, and Government schools and colleges have been thrown open throughout the land to all Indian subjects of the Queen, irrespective of their race, or their creed, or their caste. The result has been to create a system of public instruction, based on Western knowledge and Western enlightenment, which forms a new era in the life of the people. One of its consequences has been that what was formerly a hostile India has been turned into a loyal India. We have during the last quarter of a century grown so accustomed to the loyalty of India that we are apt to take it as a matter of course. But to the rulers of India under the East India Company, the one thing impossible seemed to be the creation of a loyal India." This emphatic testimony to the loyalty of India, coming, as it does, from a keen observer like Sir William Hunter, should carry great weight with the British public. The average Anglo-Indian official would have them believe that the present system of education, based on Western knowledge and Western enlightenment, makes its recepients disloyal. Holding this view, he would, if he could, close tomorrow all the institutions for higher education, leaving only the primary schools to teach the three Rs. As a matter of fact, the Feudatory Chiefs and the educated classes are firmly convinced that their interests are bound up in the maintenance of the British power, and that the English, with all their sins of omission and commission, are the best rulers that they can possibly have, and that they have every thing to lose and nothing to gain by a change of masters.

This new feeling, on the part of the princes and people of India, of a common interest with England, it is needless to say, has given rise to two of the three movements with which Sir William Hunter's paper under notice deals. The one is a movement among the Feudatory chiefs to participate in the defence of the Empire, and the other is a movement among the educated classes to take a fair share in the administration of its affairs. "The question before the Queen's representatives in India, during the past two years has been," writes Sir William, "how far it may be safe to trust the princes and the people of India to help us in the defence and in the Government of the Indian Empire. This question of confidence now lies at the root of our whole position in India. How far is it safe to trust the native princes of the Feudatory States; how far is it safe to trust the influential classes in our own provinces? To both of these vital questions the British Government has, as I understand, now given its reply. It has plainly told the native princes of the Feudatory States that it has confidence in their loyalty, and that it accepts the free-will offerings of their troops." It is true that the Government has accepted the offers of troops made by the Feudatory Chiefs; but then this has been done in a manner which clearly shows that the Paramount Power has not *full confidence* in their loyalty. In the first place, the Government has declined offers of artillery made by the princes; in the second, the Imperial War Service troops are to be armed with the Snider, while the weapon now in the hands of the Native Infantry in British Service is the Martini-Henry; and lastly, the Governor-General in Council has not sanctioned the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst for the proper training of Native Commissioned officers. These facts conclusively show that the Government has not considered it safe to trust the Feudatory Chiefs completely under the Imperial Defence Scheme. This decision cannot, after Sir William Hunter's emphatic testimony to the loyalty of the Native princes, be too deeply regretted. He then proceeds to show how far the Government is willing to accede to the wishes of the educated classes, with reference to the expansion of the Legislative Councils. The Indian National Congress, Sir William goes on to say, asks that the Natives of India shall have a more effective voice in making their own laws. They desire that the Indian Budget shall be regularly discussed every year in the Legislative Council; that the members of the Imperial and Provincial Councils shall have the right to ask questions; and that the number of non-official members of the Councils shall be increased. Sir William Hunter says that the Government of India and Her Majesty's Ministers have admitted in principle the reasonableness of these three requests. He tells us that Lord Cross's Bill, which was introduced in last Session of Parliament, provided for the annual discussion of the Budget for giving the members the right to ask questions in the Legislative Councils, and for a cautious increase in the number of members of those Councils. Lord Cross's Bill, as we had occasion to point over and over again in these columns last year, was a half-hearted measure, which did not meet the requirements of the case. If this Bill had been passed into law, it would have satisfied neither the people nor the bureaucracy. Referring to the fourth request of the educated Natives of India that they should be allowed to elect their own representatives to the Legislative Councils, Sir William Hunter observes:—"The views of the Government in regard to the adoption of the elective principle are not so clear as in regard to other requests made by the Indian National Congress. It is stated that no fewer than three Viceroys, and several eminent Governors of Indian Provinces, are disposed to give a cautious trial to representative government in India. Lord Cross's Bill, as introduced last session, did not, however, accept this principle. But on an amendment made by Lord Northbrook, it appeared that Her Majesty's Ministry were not unwilling to reconsider the question, and that a qualified recognition of the elective principle might be introduced at a later stage into the Bill. The Bill for India was, unfortunately, crowded out by other measures affecting Ireland and England. It is understood that a similar Bill will be brought forward again during the comming session." Sir John Gorst has already introduced into the House of Commons his India Council's Bill which, we are told, is perfectly identical with the measure which, at the instance of Lord Cross, was passed by the Lords last year. If so, it does not appear that Her Majesty's Ministers have reconsidered the question. In the debate on the second reading of Lord Cross's Bill in the Upper House last year, Lords Northbrook, Ripon and Kimberley earnestly appealed to the Ministry to consider whether the Bill might not be so altered as to provide for the recognition of the elective principle in the constitution of the Legislative Council. But this appeal does not seem to have produced any effect. Sir William Hunter, however, expects that before the end of this century England will have added to the other services which she has rendered to India, the noble gift of a true beginning of representative Government. We sincerely trust that this expectation will be fulfilled.

It is deeply to be regretted that in speaking of "popular movements in India," Sir William Hunter should have thought fit to deal with the demands of the so-called party of social reform in this country. None should know better than he that the movement which has been set on foot for introducing changes into the constitution of Hindu society is in no sense a popular one. It is confined to a very small class indeed. This being the case we need not say anything about it here. In the concluding part of his paper Sir William refers to the resolution to hold the 1892 Congress in England, and remarks:—"It makes us realise not only the solidarity which is growing up between India and Britain, but also the confidence which the Indians themselves feel that they can lay their requirements before the British people with the certainty of a fair hearing and of a fair consideration of their wants. The sight of the Indian troops hurrying to the aid of the Queen's armies in the Mediterranean and in Egypt, tought the military nations of Europe a lesson as to the power and resources of Great Britain. But the present project of a hundred delegates coming from India to explain their political needs to Englishmen strikes me as a far more imposing spectacle. For it tells the world in unmistakable language that India herself believes in the justice of England, and in the determination of the British nation to do what is right to the Asiatic Empire which Providence has committed to their care." Yes, the people of India fully believe in the desire of the British public to do justice to them and entirely rely on them for the redress of their grievances.

AN UNWARRANTABLE DISMISSAL.

WE will treat our readers to-day with some remarkable facts regarding a case of dismissal. They will show how things are managed in our public offices. In order to enable the reader to understand the subsequent correspondence we take the liberty of extracting the following statement of facts a little at length :—

The Collector of Gazipore as guardian and next friend of Gouri Shankar, ward of the Court of Wards, obtained a decree on the 24th of December 1886 from the Subordinate Judge of Allahabad against one Surya Prasad for Rs 18,703. 5*as*. 9*p*. and this decree was transmitted under a certificate from the said court, dated the 21st of April 1887, to the Court of the District Judge of Sarun, for execution. Application was filed on the 14th of June 1887 and the properties of the judgment-debtor were advertised for sale. In the meantime the defendant judgment-debtor had appealed to the High Court, Allahabad, and orders were received by the District Judge of Sarun for stay of further proceedings, and eventually the case was struck off.

On the 21st of May 1889 the High Court of Allahabad confirmed the decree of the Subordinate Judge of Allahabad with costs amounting to Rs. 1,000. 8*ans*. 2*p*. payable by the unsuccessful appellants to the Court of Wards. The decree having thus become final the Collector of Gazipur requested Babu Nursing Chunder Mitter to take proceedings in execution and accordingly two separate applications for execution were filed. One, on the 29th of October 1889, for the decree of the first Court, and another on the 31st idem, for the costs of the Allahabad High Court. The District Judge of Sarun, not having till then received any certificate for the decree in respect of the costs of the Appellate Court, on the 29th of November passed the following order :—"The Government pleader is directed to obtain and file sec. 223 certificate of the Allahabad Subordinate Judge's Court with respect to the costs of the N. W. P. High Court, Appellate side; the former certificate being only of the decree of the Original Court. The two decrees are quite separate ones." A certificate for the costs of the Appellate Court, dated 2nd of January 1890, was received on the 10th idem by the District Judge and on the receipt of this certificate the execution for the costs of the High Court which had been kept in abeyance, was allowed to be proceeded with.

Mr. Knox, the Public Prosecutor and Legal Remembrancer of the North-Western Provinces, having reasons to object to the Government pleader's scale of fees complained to Mr. T. T. Allen, the Legal Remembrancer at Calcutta as, follows :—

It appears to me to show an ignorance of procedure which I should not expect to find in person holding the office of Government Pleader or to be more or less of an attempt to impose upon the Collector of Gazipore I would ask you to issue such instructions as you may deem expedient.

Upon this Babu Nursing Chunder Mitter explained :—

The Government Pleader, as Government Pleader owes no duty to the Court of Wards except when he receives a retainer and is quite at liberty to settle his own terms in the matter of fees. In the case in question the amount to be realized is very large and, in view of the special difficulties attending the execution of decrees for large amounts, I demanded or meant to demand a special fee for a work which required my special care and attention. Government Pleaders are not menial servants that they should expect an *inam* from a Court of Wards' Manager; their time is very valuable and they have a right to demand special fee in any case other than that of Government. Granted that Mr. Knox's view is correct and I was wrong, any lawyer must know that the wisest and the best are sometimes liable to make mistakes and, not unfrequently, the judgments of the District Judges and of the High Courts are set aside by the constituted Appellate Courts. If a Government Pleader, whose knowledge of the law must presumably be inferior to that of a District Judge or of a High Court Judge, has made a mistake in a point of law or procedure it is the duty of the superior authorities to set him right and not to make unjust and ungenerous observations upon his motives. I may be permitted to state that I practised in the Calcutta High Court from 1864 to 1870 and that since 1870 I have discharged the duties of a District Government Pleader with credit to myself and satisfaction to my superiors and to the district authorities. The records of your office and of the Legal Remembrancer, Calcutta, will shew that I have been more anxious to discharge my duties faithfully and zealously than to secure the payment of my fees. I have been too long in this service and enjoy a practice far too extensive and lucrative to lead me into following a wrong procedure for a paltry gain. I beg most humbly, respectfully and, at the same time, firmly to protest against the observations of Mr Knox as improper, unjust and ungenerous such as no officer in Bengal who knows anything of me or of my charracter would ever think of making; and I think they ought to be withdrawn, or else I would find it impossible to conduct the case.

This was certainly a spirited and dignified explanation which nettled the Legal Remembrancer to the quick. But he kept quiet for about 8 months. In July 1890, however, a mine *was sprung upon the bold Government pleader* in the shape of his summary dismissal without any explanation being demanded or given. That Babu Nursing Chunder was not dismissed for any fault or neglect of duty is abundantly clear from the letter of the Collector of Sarun asking for return of the *Sanad* of appointment in which the Collector thanked him for *many good services rendered to Government during his long tenure of office*. In justice to himself, to his fellow-Government pleaders and to his countrymen, he demanded an explanation in a letter to the Collector of Sarun, from which, long as it is, we make the following extract :—

I crave leave to state that I am perfectly ignorant of the causes which have led to my summary dismissal and, even if it were not for the continuance of my connection with Government, I owe it to myself to ascertain definitely the circumstances which brought about this unmerited and unexpected result with a view to dispel any false impression that might otherwise be entertained regarding my conduct. If further reasons were wanted for this anxiety on my part, they may be formulated as follows :—

(*a*) In the interests of the Public service, for the Government Pleader is, undoubtedly, a public servant.

(*b*) To remove misapprehension in the minds of my clients as to the causes of my dismissal.

(*c*) In the interests of the Bengali pleaders whose number is daily increasing and who are so thoroughly qualified by knowledge of law and are so experienced as to be eligible for any post in the Judicial Service but who would under the Legal Remembrancer's ruling, be disqualified by reason of their nationality to hold the office of a Government Pleader in the districts of Behar, or, at least, in the district of Sarun.

(*d*) To obtain, if possible, from Government a clear definition of the status, rights and privileges of Government Pleaders and generally of law officers under the Government of Bengal :—To what extent and how far they are liable to be dealt with under an exceptional procedure and to be dismissed otherwise than under the forms prescribed in the case of other public servants.

Mr. Allen's dignity would not, however, permit his explaining matters and he wrote to the Collector :—

He has no right to make any such request, and Government is as little bound to assign a reason for changing its District Pleader as I am for changing my medical adviser. A Government Pleader is not on the footing of a regular salaried servant of Government working out a certain number of years at the end of which he becomes entitled to a pension but is, merely, a professional man carrying on his profession whom Government employs in such matters as require to be dealt with by a man of that profession, paying for each service as rendered, exactly as a private employer pays him.

Standing quite on his dignity, however, he condescended to hint :—

While I have a distinct recollection of former complaints, not of a very serious character, the explanation unsatisfactory in substance, and most objectionable in tone, which offered to the complaint made by Mr. Knox, Legal Remembrancer of North-Western Provinces, was the basis of my representation to Government.

In justice to the officer concerned "the former complaints" should have been referred to more in detail or not referred to at all when he is not allowed to vindicate himself against innuendoes. Mr. Allen's reading of the special code in regard to menials like pleaders and doctors may be his own. But the profession has a right to know if the Government whom the Legal Remembrancer represents in this matter endorses his views. The Government has clearly laid down rules in regard to dismissal of its servants and no officer has a right to be mysterious in this way unless he has good reasons to believe that he is quite in the wrong—The statement of facts we have referred to above goes on to say :

The procedure which Babu Nursing Chunder Mitter adopted was in strict conformity to the provisions of the law and his view was accepted as correct by Mr. Gordon, admittedly a very high authority in matters of law and procedure. The judgment-debtor who was interested in questioning the correctness of this procedure, did not object to it and the authorities of the N. W. Provinces tacitly admitted the correctness of the procedure'; for, they not only failed to point out in what respect it was erroneous but the fee demanded by the pleader, was subsequently paid without a demur.

Mr. Knox had made the complaint to Mr. Allen either without looking at the law or without informing himself of the facts of the case, and the accusation was so unjust and so unfounded that the pleader was right to repel it with much force and great indignation. The fee demanded by the pleader was only Rs. 80 in each of the two cases and it was suggested by the pleader that if his procedure be wrong the case might be taken out of his hands. This however, was not done and the pleader was allowed to conduct the case until the 10th of September last, when he made over charge to Babu Durga Prasad. It is rather curious that though the explanation, which is considered so unsatisfactory and so objectionable in tone, was submitted on the 27th of December 1889; yet, no steps were taken by Mr. Allen until sometime in June or July last.

For once there should be an authoritative decision as to whether a Government Pleader is fish or flesh or good red herring and if he is not a Government servant no body has any business to be offended with his "tone", though he should happen to be the Legal Remembrancer of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. Government may also be asked to rule definitely whether Bengalis are to be snubbed and put down wherever and whenever possible.

Latest News and Notes.

ACCORDING to present arrangements, the Viceroy will reach Allahabad from Calcutta on the evening of March 25th, and will remain there for a couple of days. On the 26th, His Excellency will open the new water-works, and on the 27th, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, of the N. W. P., he will leave Allahabad and proceed to open the last link of the Lucknow-Philibhit Railway on the 28th instant.

LADY LANSDOWNE, accompanied by Mrs. Hope, Lord Frederick Hamilton and Captain Creagh, will leave Calcutta for Simla on the evening of Thursday, the 12th instant. Her Excellency will spend two days at Lucknow, and will afterwards join the Viceroy at Naini Tal, going on tour with Lord Lansdowne in Kumaon.

THE last "Reception of the season" was held on Thursday last at the Government House in the shape of a State Concert. The ceremony is said to have been less stiff and formal than it usually is, and, therefore proportionately enjoyable.

THE double ceremony of opening the Dufferin Zenana Hospital and unveiling the bust of Lady Dufferin was performed by Lady Lansdowne, at College Square, on Monday last. Considerable *eclat* attended the ceremony, and there was a strong representative gathering, both of natives and Europeans. It had been announced in the morning papers that the generous Englishman who had promised a gift of 15,000 rupees, should another 20,000 rupees be forthcoming from other sources to make up the balance of the Funds wanting for the purposes of the hospital, was none other than our generous Lieutenant-Governor, and Mr. Cotton had the satisfaction of announcing to the meeting that the requisite sum of 20,000 rupees had been fully subscribed. Sir Charles Elliott's munificent donation was, therefore, earned on its original condition, though the donor would not withdraw the offer even if the balance was not made up. Mr. Cotton in opening the proceedings also said :—

A third contribution from the available surplus is expected from the Bengal General Jubilee Fund, and the receipts will be further supplemented by the proceeds of a public entertainment at the Rink, which has been fixed to take place on this day week. The Committee are, therefore, confident that in the course of another twelve months the additional buildings, which are a necessary part of the Hospital, will be completed. The children's ward has already been endowed by subscriptions amounting to Rs, 24,107 which were collected for the purpose by lady subscribers to the Harriot Dufferin Memorial Funds. A complete list of subscriptions which have been received for the Building Fund of the new Zenana Hospital, amounts tp Rs. 1,32,689,14,8. In addition to this amount a sum which may be estimated at not less than Rs. 10,000 has been promised as a donation from the Central Committee.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor announced the names of the donors who had come in since Saturday before last, and said that he was bound to think that Bengal had nobly responded to the call he made upon her, and that the reproaches which were levelled at her, at the last annual meeting, have been wiped away and cannot again be repeated. Mr. Walter Thomson, of the firm of Messrs. Thomson and Mylne of Beheea, has subscribed Rs. 10,000

to the Bengal Branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. Raja Janaki Ballabh Sen, of Dimla, has given Rs. 4,000, and Raja Gobindlal Ray, of Tajhat, Rs. 2,000.

MR. JUSTICE PRINSEP left Calcutta on Thursday last, on a month's tour of inspection of the District Courts of Bengal. We trust the present tour will be fruitful of more practical good than the last. His Lordship visited the Calcutta Court of Small Causes on Thursday last and will pay it a few more visits before he sets out on his Mafassil tour. This is no doubt in connection with the recent outcry raised against the Small Cause Court. The *Englishman* is angry with the Small Causes Court and will not let trade and commerce have anything to do with it. The latest fad preached by our contemporary therefore is a Mercantile Court for Calcutta. Why not improve and add to the existing machinery. There is to be more accommodation now in the Small Causes Court premises though with a decidedly bad architectural effect and a bench or two might easily be added to cope with the daily increasing work. These complaints would have hardly arisen if the High Court was let alone with its old jurisdiction. It is notorious that the Small Cause Court is no longer a Court of *Small* Causes.

MR. CHARLES H. Hill, of Allahabad, has been appointed to officiate for the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris while his Lordship is away on furlough.

THE "Conversazione" at the Town Hall on Friday last suffered nothing by the recent illness of its energetic Secretary. Nothing was left undone or unthought of that could contribute to the success or enjoyable features of this annual institution of Calcutta. The exhibits were as numerous as pleasing, and the scientific department under the presidency of Father Lafont drew the greatest attention. The Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor were present during the evening and were pleased with the arrangements.

IN the House of Commons on Thursday night Sir John Gorst, replying to a question, said that the Age of Consent Bill had been introduced by the Government after careful consideration, and that they had no intention of withdrawing it. Reuter does not say as to who 'drew out' what Government must be but too anxious to parade to the British public or else some estimate might be formed of the feeling of the House on this burning question of the day. Government has attempted to make no secret that the game had been organised in England and is being played out from there. Though the odds are so much against us, we cannot yet afford to despair.

THE *Indian Mirror* understands that the Lieutenant-Governor has vetoed the Resolution, passed by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, on the 12th February last, that the Executive be instructed to enter in the Draft Budget for 1891-92 the salary of the Chairman at the sum of Rs. 3,000 per mensem, including houserent, His Honor being of opinion that sufficient reasons have not been shewn by the Commissioners for passing a Resolution of the kind. Apart from the merits of the case, we cannot exult with our contemporary that the Commissioners have been over-ruled in a certain measure by the Lieutenant Governor, because in that particular measure we happen to take the same view with the Lieutenant-Governor against the Commissioners. The principle of such interference is bad and we shall have no right to quarrel with such interference when it proves distasteful to us.

AT the Bengal Council meeting on Saturday, a Bill to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879, and a Bill to amend the Public Demands Recovery Act, 1880, were introduced. A sixth class of wards will now be created, namely, persons as to whom the Local Government has, after due enquiry, declared, on their own application, that they are disqualified, and that it is expedient, in the public interest, that their estates should be managed by the Court of Wards.

A STRONG committee has been formed to carry through the athletic sports meeting for natives which will shortly be held in the Dalhousie-square. Sir Charles and Lady Elliott have both promised to attend. Sir Charles has promised a prize for a steeplechase, Mr. Harry Lee for a hurdle race, and Sir Alfred Croft for a ¼ mile flat race. Several native gentlemen have also promised pizes for other events, which include 100 yard flat races, 150 yards handicap, a tug-of-war, high jump and throwing the cricket-ball. Saturday, the 28th of instant, which is a holiday, has been fixed for the meeting.

THE Bengal Nagpur Railway was opened by Lord Lansdowne with great *eclat* on Monday last. It is a very important branch as lessening the time between Calcutta and Bombay by one full day, and tapping a rich grain-producing country abounding in some parts in forest and minerals. The Company was started in March 1887, with a capital of three millions and it speaks well of the management that within the comparatively short time that has since elapsed 830 miles of railway have been completed. The whole line is broad guage and the Company has secured Government guarantee of 4 per cent. interest. Mr. Hoare, M. P., the Chairman of the Company, who has come out from England expressly to be present at the opening ceremonials, pointed to the great necessity of the Government assisting in the construction of feeder roads and lines and in immigration. His Excellency the Viceroy expatiated on the great benefits to be derived from railway extensions and said:

If British rule in India had no other monument to leave but the part it had played in this direction, it would in itself be conclusive evidence of the beneficence and usefulness of the British adminstration. He had no hesitation in saying that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was one of the soundest Railway enterprises which ever received encouragement from the Government of India; and he doubted whether there was ever a line which could be advocated from so many different points of view as the Bengal-Nagpur. If there were regions in which scarcity and famine were recurrent, it was not because India was unable to supply the wants of her people, but because food supplies had been in one place and the starving people in another, and because there had not been sufficient railway communication to bring food and people together; and in no part of India was that fact more strikingly illustrated than in that part now covered by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Furthermore, whether the traveller desired simply to travel over this portion of India, or whether he wished to pass repeatedly from Bombay to Calcutta, and in doing so save 130 miles in the course of his journey, he would find the Bengal-Nagpur line a source of convenience and comfort to him. He repudiated the idea that the present Government of india looked askance at private enterprise in regard to railway matters, and that it was actuated by a desire to keep the whole of the railway systems of the country within its own control and management. Without entering at length into the subject, he for one would say that he should certainly be very sorry indeed to think that the Government of India contemplated the idea of retaining in its own hands the whole of the railways in India, or of excluding the agency of the Company if that could be obtained upon reasonable terms. If this could be done, they might depend upon it that the Government would gladly avail itself of such assistance. If they had been obliged at times to look somewhat critically upon offers and proposals made to them in this direction, it was because these offers contained conditions which the Government, as trustees for the public, did not feel it their duty to accept without protest or reservation. The Government of India was not opposed to the recognition of private enterprise; and was, within reasonable limits, perfectly willing to share with the companies the risk and responsibilities of such transactions. His Excellency concluded by proposing success to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, remarking that he had no doubt that the completion of this line would enable the wants and requirements of the people in this part of India to be better coped with than in the past. He hoped also that by the completion of the line the local Chiefs and Rajas would be stimulated to carry out local improvements of their own, and would supplement the Railway by improving the road communications in their districts.

IN the afternoon the Viceroy and the other guests travelled in a special train to Saranda to visit a large tunnel now in progress there. On returning the Viceroy held a durbar, which was largely attended by the local Chiefs and Rajas. In the evening a dinner was given, after which His Excellency and some other guests left for Calcutta which was reached back on Wednesday morning.

IT appears that Calcutta is to have two more European hotels and not one, on a grand style. The site secured for the one on Mr. Silbeger's cooling plans is Messrs. Kapp and Company's premises. The other which is a purely French speculation with French money is to be located opposite the Octorloney monument and with accommodation for 500 people. The plans of both the hotels have been elaborated and work will be shortly taken in hand.

OUR Judges were against the Bill as it stood, and had a long sitting on Monday last in their library to consider what their recommendations should be with regard to it. Their opinion embodies a suggestion that investigation in all cases under the Bill should be by officers sufficiently high to prevent any mischievous results arising from the working of the measure which is about the only suggestion adopted by the Select Committee.

ACCORDING to an inspired paragraph in a morning contemporary the concluding Council meeting of the Calcutta sessions will be held on March 20th, when the last of measures under consideration, inculding the Factory Act and the Age of Consent Bill, will be passed into law. It is understood that the proposed factory legislation will be in the direction of making children 'half-times' up to fourteen years of age; limiting women's labour to eleven hours a day, with half-an-hour's rest; and making Sunday a compulsory holiday, except when falling within three days of a Native holiday in the current or preceding week. The Act is intended to be made applicable to all mills where machinery is employed, and the number of hands exceeds fifty.

THE mail brings news that in a letter to the *Times*, Sir George Birdwood, criticising the Age of Consent Bill, says that the Act authorising the re-marriage of Indian widows was one of the chief causes of the tacit acquiescence of Hindus in many parts in the Mutiny. Child-marriage, above any other subject affecting Hindus, according to Sir George, is one which they should be scrupulously left to deal with themselves. Sir George knew India some time ago, and however accurate his estimate as to the intensity of feeling evoked may be the analogy is hardly happy.

THE Howrah Municipality will now be passing through a phase that will be watched with great interest. Mr. Fiddian, the local Magistrate, and Babu Upendra Nath Mittra, a well-known local pleader, were competitors for the chairmanship at Wednesday's meeting when, the latter was elected by a majority of 5 votes. Babu Nrisinha Dutt, another well-known pleader, has been elected Vice-Chairman.

Rai Ambica Churn Roy Bahadur has been re-elected Chairman of the South Suburban Municipality. He has been a commissioner of the said Municipality since its creation, and has been its elected chairman since the elective system has been introduced into the municipality. The improvements effected in the municipality during his incumbency have been great and compare favourably with the working in the municipality during the time of its official chairman. There were a few Commissioners who were in favour of electing a Deputy Magistrate, but their attempts were fruitless. All the respectable Commissioners voted for Rai Ambica Churn Roy Bahadur. We reproduce here with pleasure the Resolution, recorded by the Commissioners expressive of their grateful sense of the meri-

torious services rendered by Rai Ambica Charan Bahadur to the Municipality :

Proposed by Moulvi Ahmed Khan Bahadur and seconded by Babu Bidhu Bhusun Mukerjee that as the term of office of the Commissioners is about to expire, it is very desirable that a vote of thanks to their Chairman, Rai Ambica Churn Roy Bahadur, with an expression of their opinion, should be recorded in the proceedings of this day's meeting. The following Resolution was then unanimously carried. That this meeting begs to record its deep sense of gratitude to the Chairman for the meritorious and very valuable services rendered by him during the term of his incumbency which is now coming to a close, and for the very many improvements effected during his incumbency as such Chairman, the economy and care always used by him in the expenditure of the Municipal money, the control exercised by him over the Municipal fund, and above all for the prompt and effectual measures always adopted by him in all cases of emergency specially during the out-break of cholera and small-pox within the limits of the Municipality, at a great sacrifice of time and convenience.

PANDIT Iswara Chandra Vidyasagara, who is for all reform so far as the *Shastras* will permit it and more, is unequivocally against the Bill. He has given a strong opinion against it and *although he has long retired from public life, he has been doing his very best to prevent the threatened catastrophe. He is not one to be swayed by popular cant, as every one who knows him knows well.* It is his sincere conviction that a disaster has to be averted that has put him on his mettle—him whose life's best energies have been spent in the cause of Hindu social reform. Babu Rajnarain Bose, the President of the Adi Bramho Somaj, has given his strong opinion against the Bill and so have many a well-known minister, of the Bramho Somaj of India. The Sadharan Bramho Somaj though supporting the Bill, nay going beyond it, has the candour to admit that the question of raising the Age of Consent of the child-wives is beset with *numerous difficulties*. The Durbhanga Brahmo Somaj strongly condemns the Bill. Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee is as much against the Bill as any one could be, for the feeling is strong that the legislature is pursuing the policy of giving the dog a bad name for the sole purpose of hanging it. You actually put a premium upon what you constitute a crime by not only making its commission possible, but inevitable, should other things be favourable. The law is powerless to keep the husband and wife separate, or to make marriage before the statutory age impossible. Yet you want to achieve an impossibility like the sage who would place a pot of *ghee* on fire and yet would not let it melt, for that would exactly be the situation of affairs when you expect a couple to obey the law when they have both attained puberty. In this connection we owe it to ourselves to explain that a correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* taking advantage of a typographical mistake has grossly misrepresented us as advocating pre-puberal consummation. But the reader will have no difficulty at rating such misrepresentation at its worth.

Memorials, petitions, protests and representations against the Bill are pouring in from every side. Over 2,000 Mahomedan inhabitants of Calcutta have submitted the following memorial to Government :

To His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in Council.

The humble memorial of the undersigned Mussulmans residing in the town of Calcutta,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—1. That your memorialists have learned with greiat alarm of the introduction in the Legislative Council of the Age of Consent Bill.

2. That your memorialists beg herewith to enter their humble protest against the Bill for the following among other grounds :—

(*a*) The Koran lays it down that a girl is to be married immediately after she has attained her marriageable age.

(*b*) This marriageable age has been settled by learned commentators to be the period when the first menstruation takes place, which in a great many cases happens before the completion of the 12th year.

(*c*) Therefore the Bill, if passed into law, will interfere with the religious rites and customs of the Mussulmans.

(*d*) The Bill, if passed into law, will be an engine of great oppression in the hands of wicked people and subordinate officers in the Executive Department.

3. That, under the above circumstances, your memorialists humbly crave the favour of Your Excellency in Council to drop the Bill which has been introduced into the Legislative Council and referred to the Select Committee. And your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

ANOTHER Memorial from Mussulmans, residing in the town of Calcutta, has been submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, protesting against the Age of Consent Bill, and asking His Excellency in Council to drop the same. In support of their prayer, the Memorialists urge that "the Bill, if passed into law, will interfere with the religious rites and customs of the Mussulmans, and will be an engine of great oppression in the hands of wicked people." A petition on behalf of the Mahomedan community of Bogra, and signed by Moulvis, Hafiz and other Mahomedans, has been submitted to the Viceroy. Two more petitions, on behalf of the Hindu community, have been also sent in. A Memorial has been despatched from Cuch Behar to the Viceroy, containing two suggestions that (*a*) either the Bill should be abandoned entirely, or that (*b*) puberty should be fixed as the age of consent. The Memorialists also pray for extension of time (6 months.)

ACCORDING to a telegram to the *Englishman* a lac of Bombay Mahomedans, adopted a similar memorial in an enthusiastic meeting. Over 2000 Musulmans attended this preliminary meeting. It is no longer a Bengali Hindu agitation.

AN editorial reality complains of the excesses of the native press in regard to the Age of Consent agitation and in raising the cry of religion in danger where no danger exists. We are told that the Native Press abuse what they think their liberty and insult the Viceroy, and through him the Empress and Her Ministry, with whose sanction and concurrence this measure of legislation has been introduced with the most humane and beneficent intentions. "Her Majesty has always shown such a lively interest in the welfare of her Indian subjects that it is an insult and reproach to Her Majesty even to suppose such things as these scribes have not hesitated to publish throughout the length and breadth of the land." And yet it is the Queen's solemn proclamation that Her Majesty's ministers and Viceroys are to be permitted to override with impunity. It is a good policy to keep down a troublesome agitation by predicating sedition of it. But if the agitation is hollow, unreal and artificial, how can it be serious which all sedition must be. The two charges hardly seem to be consistent. But the demonstration agitation is gaining ground every day far and wide.

IF the *maidan* meeting was to the certain knowledge of the conveners a hollow unreality so far as genuine demonstration went, they might as well have claimed the immense gathering on the occasion of the Ardhodaya Joga at the different points of the Hoogly and the Ganges as mass demonstration against the Bill. Lest any such objection be taken the promoters of the meeting allowed sufficiently long time for the gathering to disperse before announcing their meeting of Wednesday before last. Considering that they had barely 48 hours to "get up" the whole thing their wire-pulling faculties must be considered to be marvellous. The reality of the agitation is keenly felt and the only means left to descredit it is to cry it down as seditious. Nothing is easier than to quote a stray sentence or sentiment here and there in an intentionally garbled fashion and to make a cry of sedition. The Ilbert Bill literature was of a much stronger type though the measure discussed was really very very small and affected imaginary rights of a small portion of Her Majesty's subjects. We had no talk of Press Acts then. But analogies are useless.

PEOPLE justly dissatisfied at the attitude of Government with regard to the Scoble Bill are naturally drawing comparison between the present controversy and that which raged round the Ilbert Bill till its abandonment was wrung from Lord Ripon. The *Dainik* draws morals in this connection which are not edifying from the Government point of view. The Ilbert Bill would affect in a very remote way the vested rights of a hundred years of a couple of lacs of Her Majesty's British born subjects, who heaped threats, menaces and abuses of a sickening and revolting description upon the Government and its devoted head, the wire-pulling business on whose behalf went on more briskly than ever and to propitiate whom all the concessions demanded had to be granted. The present Bill most needlessly and most unjustifiably lays an axe to the social structures and cherished religious institutions of the bulk of the Indian people, namely Hindus and Mahomedans. Still people do not menace and rave and gesticulate or insult the Viceroy at the very gates of his palace, all which things took place in connection with the Ilbert Bill and took place to some purpose. Instead we find the panic-stricken millions go down on their knees, weep and cry, and point out the terrible mistake that Government is making in regard to an order of things which has obtained without objection or injury for thousands of years. The enemies of good Government proclaim that the Viceroy is so much dissatisfied with the hydra-headed agitation that unlike the weak-kneed Lord Ripon he is not going to take any notice of got-up demonstrations, but will pass the Bill peremptorily and at any risk. Lord Lansdowne's libellers forget that this is not real strength of mind.

REGARDING the "warning" given in these columns not long after the introduction of the Bill, which Mr. Hume and his hundred friends would not heed, the *Mirror* which has a monopoly of Patriotism now-a-days, advises us to make room for our betters, retire from the field of journalism, hide our face or change our name. There is a hint that we "threaten not to make political demands," on which score, however, the supporters of Government need not give themselves much trouble or anxiety. The *Vaidik* sage who would sweep away history and jurisprudence and destroy all laws of social evolution at one fell stroke of his mighty pen seriously asks us as to why we should have monopoly of the voice of the country? Who said we should? We never claimed it ourselves, but have left the country to speak for itself, which it has done in no feeble, uncertain or mistakable a voice. The Bill does concern the people at large, and what is their verdict? Will the *Mirror* honestly say that the agitation against the Bill is hollow, unreal, illusory, got up, artificial and so on? If so, what agitation has been or will ever be otherwise, and what will be the position of Mr. Hume, his hundred friends, or the whole Congress hereafter? The reformers would have the country and its millions silent and hold their peace while they accomplish their selfish purposes by misleading Government in an unwarrantable, and mischievous way. The 'reformers' might pursue their own way, and do just as they like. But they had no business to compromise the millions in the way they have done. They are a handful of reasonable men—men of 'light and leading', knowing full well what they are about, how their action would result and so forth. They could not hold their peace and let things alone to be improved in time. They expect the millions to remain unexcited and quiet over a matter affecting their vital interests in their own poor light. Could absurdity and selfishness go any further? This new patent of 'patriotism' will not be registered in this country, and ours is not to be judged by its standard. The *Mirror* and Mr. Hume's hundred friends are perfectly welcome to have a monopoly of it. It requires a deal of unblushing effrontery to talk of popular feelings in this slighting strain and yet to pretend to deplore the split which they have been solely instrumental in perpetrating. Proximity of victory has maddened them with joy, and they are no longer for reconciliation and peace, of which they talked glibly not long ago. When such a vast and spontaneous demonstration as we have just witnessed have been so effectually discredited, it will not be worth any thing for a good fifty years, and both the Government and the country will have perfect rest.

Extract.

THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE following is the Report of the Select Committee that was presented by the member in charge of the Bill (Hon Sir A. Scoble) at yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council :—

We, the undersigned, members of the Select Committee to which the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, was referred, have considered the Bill and the papers specified in the schedule hereto, and have now the honour to submit this our Report with the Bill as revised by us annexed thereto.

2. We concur with several authorities in thinking that only Magistrates of the highest class should be permitted to take cognizance of the offence of rape where the offence is alleged to have been committed by the husband of an outraged girl. We concur also with the High Court at Fort William in thinking it desirable that, where an investigation by a Police-officer with respect to such an offence is deemed to be necessary, the investigation should be made by an officer of superior rank. We have proposed to amend the Bill accordingly.

3. In other respects the Bill appears to us to be open to no objection.

4. The publication ordered by the Council has been made as follows :—

In English.

Gazette.	*Date.*
Gazette of India ...	... 10th Jan.
Fort Saint George Gazette ...	... 27th ,,
Bombay Government Gazette	... 15th ,,
Calcutta Gazette ...	... 14th ,,
N. W. P and Oudh Govt. Gazette	... 17th ,,
Punjab Government Gazette	... 22nd ,,
Central Provinces Gazette ...	... 17th ,,
Burma Gazette ...	... 24th ,,
Assam Gazette ...	... 24th ,,
Coorg District Gazette ...	... 2nd Feb.

In the Vernaculars.

Province	*Language*	*Date.*
Bombay ...	Marathi	... 28th Jan.
	Gujrathi	... 28th ,,
	Kanarese	... 28th ,,
Bengal	Bengali	... 27th ,,
	Hindi	... 3rd Feb.
	Uriya	... 5th ,,
N. W. P. & Oudh...	Urdu	... 7th ,,
Punjab ...	Urdu	... 12th ,,
Coorg ...	Kanarese	... 2nd ,,

5. We do not think that the measure has been so altered as to require republication, and we recommend that it be passed as now amended.

(Sd.) A. SCOBLE
,, P. P. HUTCHINS.
,, K. L. NULKAR.
,, H. W. BLISS.

The 6th March, 1891.

THE HON. SIR ROMESH CHUNDER MITTER'S DISSENT.

Since its introduction into the Council, this Bill has been subjected to an exhaustive criticism and to a searching examination by the public as regards its principle and details from almost every point of view. After bestowing careful considertion upon all that has been said for and against it I am still of opinion that the proposed amendment of the *exception* to section 375, Indian Penal Code is likely to cause more harm than good.

I think it is indisputable that any measure which has the slightest tendency to disturb the harmony of the marriage relation ought not to be adopted by the Legislature until its *utility* has been established beyond all reasonable doubt. I therefore propose to consider first the question of utility, or in other words, whether the proposed amendment is likely to produce any practical good results.

In dealing with this question I shall assume at the outset that the vice of premature intercourse by husband with girl-wives exists to a culpable extent in Bengal. This assumption, so far as my knowledge of Hindu society in Bengal goes, is not fairly tenable.

Assuming that this evil exists, is it likely that the proposed law will remedy it to any appreciable degree? In answering this question it must be remembered that this vice (if it exists) has grown up notwithstanding that Hindu *Shastras* denounce it in strong terms as sinful. If, notwithstanding the interdiction of the *Shastras*, the evil exists, it must be due to a vicious practice which the influence of the *Shastras* has not been able to control. That being so, it is not probable that the proposed law will have the effect of checking this pernicious practice, as, in my opinion, the law will remain a dead letter. In cases where fatal injuries are caused to girl-wives, it would not be necessary to invoke the aid of the proposed law, as in these cases the provisions of the existing law are sufficient to visit the brutal offender with condign punishment.

In other cases it must be a dead letter, because the offence when committed could be established by the evidence of the unfortunate wife only, and she would rather suffer silently than come forward to denounce her husband in open Court, however brutal his conduct might appear even to herself. The position of the wife in a case of this nature would be most unfortunate, because, besides suffering from the brutal conduct of her husband, she would have to give her testimony in open Court regarding facts which she would not willingly disclose even to her own mother. Then again, if she spoke the truth, her position would be worse than that of a widow. On the other hand, if she deposed falsely, there would be the terror of punishment for perjury, before her. A position like this is certainly most unfortunate. Were it possible for us to ascertain the wishes of the very persons for whose benefit the Bill is introduced, I feel sure that they would be the first to demand its withdrawal if they could only realise the lamentable position in which they would be placed in the event of the law being vigorously worked. The proposed measure is clearly calculated to defeat its own avowed object by depriving the child-wife of the protection of her own lawful protector in every instance without exception, in which the law is to be operative. In fact, the result of the amendment in question would be to punish the victim of the offence more severely than the offender himself.

After the most searching enquiry not a single case resulting in conviction of a husband for rape during the last thirty years has been found out. The exception to section 375, Indian Penal Code, has been a dead-letter, and its proposed amendment will, I think, be equally a dead-letter.

If, as shown above, the proposed amendment is not likely to have any direct result, then its utility must be established on some other ground.

Upon this point the Hon'ble Member in charge of this Bill, when moving for leave to introduce it, said :—

The other objection is that legislative action is not likely to have much direct result. This may be so; but for my part I shall be content if the effect of legislation is mainly educative—if it strengthens the hand of the fathers of families for the protection of their daughters and modifies custom so as to diminish the opportunities and incentives which are now afforded for indulgence in this pernicious practice. I cannot, moreover, forget it was pointed out long ago by Dr. Chevers, that the existing law has done mischief to those whose interest it was designed to protect, by fixing too low an age; and I agree with the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the opinion that though it may not be probable or even desirable that many cases will be brought into Court, yet, if the enforcement of the husband's rights upon a girl below twelve years of age is stigmatised by the law as rape, and it is publicly recognized that those who abet such assaults render themselves liable to punishment, a great improvement will surely be effected not only in the condition of the class for whose protection the Bill is primarily designed, but in the physical and social well being of the people at large."

Is there any reasonable hope for expecting that these results will follow? In considering this question we must remember that the proposed measure has met with the strongest opposition from the people for whose benefit it is intended. If it be passed into law, it would be forced upon them as a measure of reform. That being so, the inevitable result would be that an unhealthy sympathy would be created in favour of the breakers of the law. When a reform is forced upon an unwilling people the feeling of position which is aroused necessarily blinds them to the benefits of the reform. And the case becomes worse when opinions are arrayed in strength both for or against any particular measure. At all events the effects of legislation are neutralised when it is opposed to opinion of those on whom it has to be enforced. In these cases constant endeavours are made to evade the law; and especially it would be so in this case, as it would be quite evident to them that it could be evaded with perfect impunity. Recourse to subterfuges, falsehoods and even to forgeries would be had to protect the offender, even from a prosecution. Far from modifying the practice referred to in the above extract, the new law would induce the bulk of the people to have recourse to all possible devices to make it a dead-letter, as it is considered by them to be an interference with their religion.

In the Penal Code for the last thirty years the limit of the so-called "Age of Consent" has been ten years. Has this provision produced any educative effect? Has it even been appealed to by the fathers of the families for the protection of their daughters? Or has it deterred people from continuing the pernicious custom of putting child-wives under ten years age in the same bed with their boy-husbands? As the existing law has been a dead-letter and productive of no results, the proposed amendment, in my opinion, would be equally a dead-letter and productive of very little benefit.

I do not mean to say that in no case the proposed measure would have any beneficial results. In a small number of cases it would, I think, strengthen "the hands of fathers of families" for the protection of their daughters; and also in an infinitesimally small number of cases fathers would be induced not to marry their girls till they attain twelve years of age, notwithstanding the injunction of the comparatively modern Hindu *Shastras* that a father who does not marry his daughter before she attains puberty commits a sin of a very grave character. But persons of this class do not stand in need of educative influence, and in their minds they are already convinced of the reprehensible nature of the practice. But there is a large class of Hindus who sincerely uphold the custom regarding the age of marriage and the time of the *Garbhadhan* ceremony as enjoined by the *Sastras*. It seems to me that the educative effect of the proposed measure will not affect them in the least degree. Comparing, however, the good results with the demoralising effects, the latter will be found to outweigh the former.

This objectionable feature of the proposed measure has been so forcibly put by Mr. T. N Mukerjee in his very able note on this Bill, that I cannot do better than extract the following passage from it :— "We must not overlook," he says, "what would be the hard case of thousands of males, chiefly of the low castes. These poor fellows, possessing only one hovel, have to leave alone with their child-wives, because under the existing marriage system they have no chance of procuring grown up girls recognised by law as adults. All in a day the law will not turn them into saints, and it may blight their young lives by seven years' imprisonment with hard labour for one single instance of momentary weakness, under one of the most trying temptations to which flesh is subject. The protection of young girls from cruel treatment is as much a necessity as the protection of young men from a temptation of the most trying description. Puritanic reformers, who, viewing the world in the light of their own iron-heartedness, fail to sympathise with the weakness and imperfect nature of their fellow-beings, may say that these men ought not to marry, ought not to bring to their solitary homes girls under age. Exactly the same view is being insisted upon here, only tempered with mercy and sympathy for the weak nature of human flesh. It should be remembered that the higher the age of consent or consummation is raised by law, the stronger grows the temptation before the husband, the weaker the nature's resistance to the commission of the crime, and the greater the impunity. The fear, therefore, may not be unreasonable that a measure simply raising the age of consent or consummation will have the tendency to turn the whole race into a race of *undetected* criminals." Mr. Mukerjee's view is that the most appropriate remedy for the evil is by raising the marriageable age by legislation.

In the third paragraph of this note I have *assumed* that the vice of premature intercourse by husbands with girl-wives exists in Bengal to a culpable extent. But really what exists is this. Amongst people of the higher castes girls are generally married between the ages of nine and eleven. Amongst people of the lower castes marriageable age is still lower. The girls go immediately after marriage to their husbands' house and stay there for a week or so. Before they attain puberty they occasionally visit their husbands' house and make a stay for temporary periods. Whenever they visit their husbands' house, the general practice in Bengal is to allow the young couple to sleep together at night. This is all that comes under the observation of the other members of the family.

It has been stated by a few Indian gentlemen who were consulted by the Government before this Bill was introduced that during this period intercourse takes place. In matters of this kind accurate information is hard to find, and wide generalizations are apt to be formed upon very insufficient data. But it seems to me that if the statements were well founded many cases of bodily injury would have come to light. The unanimous testimony of Indian practising physicians in Calcutta of all standings is to the effect that during their practice not a single case of bodily injury to a

married girl came to their knowledge. European Medical men who practise in Calcutta (as far as I remember) have not been able to refer to any such case which came to their knowledge. I think, therefore, that this statement has been made on insufficient data and is not fairly tenable.

But the practice of allowing the young couple to sleep together before the wife attains puberty is certainly pernicious. Speaking for myself I would extend the restriction to maturer age. This is a moral evil which for the reasons given before, would not, in my opinion, be remedied in any appreciable degree by the proposed measure.

But the greater evil from which the females of the communities in which the custom of early marriage prevails suffer is premature maternity. Among other consequences it throws upon young girls of thirteen or fourteen years of age the burden of maternity when they are physically, mentally and morally quite unfit to take it upon themselves. The result is that it takes them a long time to recover from the shock which their consititution receives by early child-bearing. It is a common instance to find a girl who has scarcely completed her sixteenth year to have become a mother of two or three children. Allowance has to be made for what care is gladly taken by the mother or mother-in-law of the child-mother. Nevertheless, the burden is very injurious to the health of the latter.

On the other hand, those who advocate early marriage contend that its advantages far outweigh the evil effects which have been shown in the preceding paragraph. They point to its adaptability to the economic conditions of the people, and insist upon the circumstance that it ensures sexual purity of character.

It would not serve any practical purpose to discuss this question in this note. But it appears to me that the proposed measure would not be efficacious in removing the evils pointed out above, especially as, in a vast majority of cases, conception takes place after the age of twelve.

I shall now proceed to state in what respects in my opinion, the Bill, if it be passed, ought to be modified. I shall first deal with the modification which, in my opinion, is necessary to meet the religious objection that has been raised.

It has been said that, according to the true reading of the *Shastras*, the alleged religious difficulty does not really exist. I do not think that the Legislature as at present constituted can satisfactorily deal with the question of the *Shastras*. It can be satisfactorily dealt with only by experts. Many experts have submitted their views, but in my opinion the Legislature as at present constituted is not competent to say which opinion is correct.

There cannot be any doubt that according to the current interpretation of the *Shastras* given by the Bengal Pandits, such as Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and M. M Mohesh Chundra Nyaratna, the religious objection taken does really exist. To meet this objection what has been proposed is that the criminal liability of a husband shall cease when a girl attains puberty.

There is no disagreement at all between the injunction of the *Shastras* and the principle upon which the Bill is based Both forbid the consummation of marriage before puberty. The only difference is that the *Shastras* fix a certain physical condition on the occurrence of which a girl should be deemed to have attained puberty The Bill in question fixes this time when a girl completes her twelfth year. Quite apart from the religious objection, it seems to me that on purely physiological consideration the view entertained by the *Shastric* authorities is more reasonable. Speaking for myself, I should say that consummation of marriage before the age of fifteen or sixteen ought to be held reprehensible. But, in the absence of such unmistakable age-criterion of maturity I think that, between the age of twelve and the occurrence of the particular physical condition, the latter is a better test of fitness for the consummation of marriage than the former. Puberty is a certain point in the physical development of a human being. And, if the time for consummation of marriage is to be fixed at an earlier period of life as a concession to popular and *Shastric* opinion on the subject, it would be much better to fix it when a certain point in physical development is *actually* reached than the hard and-fast limit of twelve years. A girl of eleven may be more physically developed than a girl of even thirteen. No valid reason appears to me why it should be considered that in all cases a girl of twelve is more physically developed than a girl of eleven.

But it seems to me that the view of the *Shastras* is the view which has been substantially adopted in the Bill, though expressed in a way which makes it inconsistent with their injunction in certain cases.

The Hon'ble member in charge of the Bill, when moving for leave to introduce it, said on this point:—

"The question then remains—What ought that limit to be?

"The proposal of the Bill is to draw the line at twelve years. This is the age which had been advocated by the social reformers who have done so much to educate public opinion on the subject, and there appear to be valid reasons for the recommendation. It is in accordance with the practice which already prevails in some parts of India. In a numerously signed petition from Poona against raising the age of consent, it is stated that consummation of marriage seldom takes place before the girl is twelve years old. In Madras it is alleged that premature cohabitation is of rare occurrence, and in the Punjab conjugal life ordinarily begins after sexual maturity. The Hindu law, as I have already shown, while enjoining the marriage of girls before they attain puberty, strictly prohibits the consummation of marriage before puberty is attained. According to Mahomedan law 'puberty and discretion constitute the essential conditions of the capacity to enter into a valid contract of marriage.' With both the great divisions of the population in India, the attainment of puberty may be taken as determining the appropriate age for consummation of marriage. *When, then, is the period at which, in the ordinary course of nature, puberty is commonly attained by girls in India?* There has been much discussion on this subject among medical men, and many are of opinion that a girl is not competentphysically or mentally to give her consent to sexual intercourse until she has completed fourteen years of age. But to adopt this limit would be to involve too abrupt a fundamental revolution in the social life of India, and to *attempt to enforce it by legislation would almost certainly fail of its objects.* I prefer to submit for the approval of the Council the more moderate view expressed by Dr. Macleod in the paper from which I have already quoted. Speaking of the period of life at which sexual maturity is attained, he says—

'Hitherto the appearance of menstruation has been held to *indicate this epoch in the life of a female*; and, allowing for the present that it does so that in great majority of cases, what evidence do we possess regarding *the age at which menstruation commences in the females of this country?* Susruta, the Hindu sage and physician, lays down that the menstrual discharge begins after the twelfth year, and that is the age laid down for marriage by the great Hindu law-giver Manu. Dr. Allen Webb collected statistics on the subject, and the result, as stated in his *Pathologia Indica*, was that "out of a list of 127 Hindu females, menstruation began only in six girls under twelve years of age: and as many of them did not again menstruate until a year after this, which they believe a first appearance, it is probable as suggested by Babu Madusudan Gupta, that a ruptured hymen would better account for that.' *I am not aware of any other statistics on this subject, but twelve years may, I think be accepted as the earliest period of appearance of the menses, and probably thirteen would be a safe average.* In England, fourteen years is held to be the most frequent age of menstruation, and it is held by law to be a felony to have sexual intercouse with a girl below that age Making all due allowance for climatic and racial differences, and bearing social customs in mind, it would seem reasonable and right that the age of protection should be raised in this country from ten to twelve."

"On the ground, therefore, that the age of twelve years approximately may be considered as the average age for consummation of marriage both according to law and custom, on the one hand, and, on the other, as the lowest safe age as regards physical fitness, I venture to think that the line may be drawn at that age without doing violence to any respectable social usage or to the religious law of any portion of the community. And though this age may be considered by some too low, it must be borne in mind that, while this amendment of the law will afford absolute legislative protection to girls up to the age of twelve years' the remedies of the existing law in regard to cases of brutality will remain available to girls above that age."

The whole argument in the above extract amounts to this. For the purposes of this Bill we shall take it that puberty is attained when the oft referred-to physical condition occurs; and that the age of twelve years approximately may be considered as the average age at which that condition occurs.

This argument evidently proceeds upon the basis that a girl attains puberty when the particular physical condition occurs in her. That being so, the suggestion that has been made, namely to draw the line at the higher age of thirteen, making an exception in the case of the occurrence of the particular physical condition at an earlier age, seems to me to be not open to any tenable objection. This would meet the religious difficulty completely, Again, this would have the advantage of postponing the consummation of marriage in a large majority of cases, as will appear from the opinion of medical officers consulted by the Bengal Government.

Brigade Surgeon R. C. Chandra says:—

"But in the majority, so far as I have seen, regular menstruation commences between twelve and thirteen and sometimes later on."

Surgeon-Major F. C. Nicholson says:—

"I find that out of 68 cases of first menstruation I have collected 49 occurred at thirteen and over, while only 10 occurred before this age,"

Surgeon-Major B Gupta says:—

"(a) Without discussing the subject at length, I shall state my opinion that the majority of girls in these provinces arrive at puberty between twelve and fourteen years of age, the largest number on the completion of the thirteenth year. In support of this opinion I shall quote some English authorities. Dr. Graily Hewitt, of London, says in his work on the Diseases of Women: 'The age during which the catamenial discharge occurs is open to certain variations, but, as a rule, it begins during the age of fourteen and sixteen.' This refers to English women. Again he says: 'The mean age of the commencement of the catamenia appears to be about two years earlier in the warmer than in the more temperate climates. Thus in India the mean age in 597 cases collected by Robertson was thirteen years. Dr. W. S. Playfair, of London, in his treatise on the Science and Practice of Midwifery, volume I, page 68 says: 'In temperate climate it (catamenia) generally commences between the fourteenth and sixteenth year, the largest number of cases being met with in the fifteenth year.' Again, the same authority says:—'There can be no doubt, however, that a large proportion of girls menstruate early in warm climates Joulin found that in tropical climates out of 1,365 cases the largest proportion begins to menstruate between the twelfth and thirteenth year, so that there is an average difference of more than two years between the preriod of its establishment in the tropics and in the temperate countries.' The same authority again states: Hains states that among the Hindus 1 to 2 per cent menstruate as early as nine years of age; 3 to 4 per cent at ten; 8 per cent at eleven; and 25 per cent, at twelve. These figures account for 39 per cent only; the obvious inference, therefore, is that the remaining 61 per cent menstruate after twelve years of age."

From these extracts it is clear that the amendment suggested would not only meet the religious difficulty

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entirely, but at the same time would have the advantage of postponing consummation of marriage in the majority of cases by one year more.

Then, again, the reason which led the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill not to draw the line at fourteen recommended by the majority of the medical experts consulted would exactly support the adoption of this amendment. Referring to the age of fourteen he says: "But to adopt this limit would involve too abrupt a fundamental revolution in the social life of India and to attempt to enforce it by legistation would almost certainly fail of its objects." For the same reason the proposed suggestion ought to be adopted.

Then, again, the want of knowledge of the precise age of a girl amongst the poorer classes of the community would render it difficult to an honest man to act according to the provisions of the proposed amendment. But with the modification suggested this difficulty would cease to exist.

It has been said that puberty cannot be satisfactorily proved. I think that it admits of more satisfactory proof than age in this country. In a true case under the proposed law there cannot be conviction unless the wife gives her evidence, and truthfully gives her evidence against her husband. All the essential facts cannot be proved by any other witness, medical evidence being out of the question as it will not be ahilable when she refuses to be examined. If therefore, the wife's evidence be indispensible for a conviction in a true case, her evidence, which is the best that can be conceived will be forth-coming to prove or disprove puberty.

In this reasoning I have excluded from my consideration the case of bodily injuries terminating fatally The existing law seems to me to be sufficient to punish the brutal offender in a case of this nature. Besides the case of Hari Maiti, another case (Kali Churn Keora decided in the year 1877 on a reference from the Sessions Judge of Hoogly) referred to by Mr. Monmohun Ghose and decided by the Hon'ble Louis Jackson and the Hon'ble S. White. J. J. supports this view. In this latter case the learned Judges convicted the husband of having voluntarily caused grievous hurt to his wife. They were of opinion that a full grown adult must be held to have known that by his act he was likely to cause hurt to his immature wife.

Furthermore, the attainment of the age of puberty amongst the Hindus is followed by certain religious rites which will afford the required evidence in a judicial investigation.

The next modification that has been suggested, and which I think is reasonable, is that a premature consummation of marriage should not be treated as rape. It has been already pointed out that, according to English law, "the husband cannot be guilty of rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife." Whether this rule of law should be followed in this country was actually considered by Lord Macaulay and his colleagues in 1837 in drafting the Indian Penal Code. They were of opinion that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife should in no case be considered rape. In 1846 the Law Commissioners, who were not Lord Macaulay's colleagues, introduced the present provision proposing at first the limit at nine years, which limit they afterwards raised to ten years. I find that, after this alteration was suggested by the Law Commissioners in 1846, Mr J. M. Macleod, one of the colleagues of Lord Macaulay, in a note written by him in 1848 on the report of the Law Commissioners of the year 1846, observed as follows:—

"Two questions of considerable difficulty are here touched on; they have been brought forward now by observations and suggestions offered by Mr. J. C. Thomas. They did not escape, attention, but on the country were very carefully considered in preparing the Code. Mr. Thomas' remarks on them are sensible, but contain nothing which had not been seen and weighed. It was deemed on the whole unadvisable either to extend the fourth description of rape so as to include any class of cases in which the woman is not married, or to narrow the rule that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife is in no case rape by excepting from it the fifth description of that crime. And that conclusion still appears to me to have been right. I feel the force of the objections to which the proposed law on these points as it stands is liable; but when I reflect on the social condition of India, they appear to me to be outweighed by the evils to which the suggested alterations would afford openings; and I feel satisfied on this, which I confess, weighs a good deal with me, that the law as it has been framed, if it is faulty, errs on the safer side."

This was the view taken by Mr. Macleod and it further appears that in this view Lord Macaulay agreed. I find this in a preface written by Mr. Macleod to his note. In the last paragraph of this preface Mr. Macleod referring to Lord Macaulay, says:—"I have great satisfaction in being authorised by him now to state that he has carefully read the following notes, and that he fully agrees with them."

It is clear, therefore, that Lord Macaulay and his colleagues were of opinion that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife should in *no case* be rape I have already pointed out that the existing provision in the Indian Penal Code on this subject is an anomaly. It is proposed now to emphasise that anomly by raising the limit of age to twelve years, on the ground that premature sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife prevails in this country to a culpable extent Having regard to the weight that is justly due to such a high authority as Lord Macaulay, he question whether premature sexual intercurse by a man with his own wife should in any case be considered rape requires careful consideration, notwithstanding the Legislature eventually adopted the recommendation of the Law Commissioners made in their report of the year 1846. In considering this question it will be convenient to note that the evils arising from premature consummation of marriage may be classed under two heads: '(I) The direct and immediate results which relate to physical injuries culminating sometimes in death. (II) The indirect and remote results which include permature maternity and physical degeneracy as well as the demoralisation of both husband and wife. It seems to me that cases which fall under the first class are crimes, and that the ordinary provisions of the Penal Code relating to hurt, grievous hurt and causing grievous hurt or death by a rash and negligent act are sufficient to punish the offender adequately. (See the case of *Hari Maiti* and *Kali Churn Keora* referred to above) If, notwithstanding these two decisions, the provisions of the Penal Code are considered not to be sufficient, they may be amended, in order that guilty persons might not escape.

But to group the second class in which no physical injuries result in the same category with rape seems to me to be unreasonable. The moral delinquency involved in a case which falls under this class is not in my opinion, of such a grave character as to be punishable with the severe punishment provided for rape I doubt whether this class of moral delinquency should be characterised as *crime* and not as a *vice*; but conceding that it may be characterised as a crime, it seems to me to be unreasonable to class it with rape. If it should be made an offence at all, certainly the punishment that should be provided for it should be much lighter than the punishment of rape.

There is a considerable difference between the culpability of a person who outrages his girl-wife and that of a stranger who is guilty of the offence of rape The proposed Bill does not make this distinction which in my opinion, ought to be made. The punishment provided in section 376 of the Indian Penal Code appears to me very much out of proportion to the culpability that attaches to the act of husband who consummates his marriage with his wife who has not attained puberty, who were no bodily injury follows. For bobily injuries, I have already said, the provisions of the Penal Code are stringent enough to punish tho brutality of the husband.

The last modification I would propose is that the Criminal Procedure Code as regards this offence should be so modified as to allow the commencement of the proceedings against a husband for the offence of premature consummation of marriage not followed by bodily injury, only on the complaint of the wife herself, or of a person who would be her guardian if the marriage did not take place.

It has been said that this provision would make the law completely inoperative. The answers to this argument is that the proposed law cannot but be inoperative, unless the wife gives evidence incriminating the husband, and she, in my opinion, should not be forced against her will to appear as a witness against her husband, the result of which will be to her a life of prepetual widowhood. Then, again, a prosecution followed by an acquittal in a case of this nature will cause great public scandal and bring disgrace upon the family to which both the husband and the wife belong for no practical good. Such acquittals will increase very much the unpapularity of the measure. But if the wife will come forward to complain against her husband, there might be chance of conviction. Furthermore, a guardian of the minor wife will not move the Court unless she herself openly complains of the ill-treatment which she has received from her husband. This modification will, therefore, limit the operation of the law in such a way that it will allow only those cases to be brought before the Court in which there will exist some chance of conviction.

ROMESH CHUNDER MITTER.

5th March, 1891.

[Here follows the Schedule giving a list of the papers and memorials considered in connection with the Bill by the Select Committee but which it in unnecessary to reproduce.]

TEE AMENDED BILL.

[*A Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure*, 1882]

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882; it is hereby enacted as follows;—

Indian Penal Code.

Amendment of section 375, Act XLV, 1860,

1. In section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, in the clause marked *Fifthly* and in the *Exception*, the word "twelve" shall be substituted for the word "ten."

Code of Criminal Procedure 1882.

Addition of section after section 560, Act X, 1882.

2. After section 560 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, the following shall be added, namely:—

Special provision with respect to offence of rape by a husband.

"561. (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Code, no Magistrate except a Chief Presidency Magistrate or District Magistrate shall—

(*a*) take cognizance of the offence of rape where the sexual intercourse was by a man with his wife, or

(*b*) commit the man for trial for the offence:

(2) And, notwithstanding anything in this Code, if a Chief Presidency Magistrate or District Magistrate deems it necessary to direct an investigation by a police-officer with respect to such an offence as is referred to in sub-section (1) of this section, no police-officer of a rank below that of Police Inspector shall be employed either to make, or to take part in the investigation."

Amendment of Schedule II, Act X 1882

3. In Schedule II to the *said* Code, for the entry respecting section 376 of the Indian Penal Code the following shall be substituted, namely:—

Column 1.	Column 2.	Column 3.	Column 4.	Column 5.	Column 6.	Column 7.	Column 8.
376	Rape— If the sexual intercourse was by a man with his own wife.	Shall not arrest without warrant.	Summons	Bailable.	Not compoundable.	Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.	Court of Sessions.
	In any other case.	May arrest without warrant.	Warrant.	Not bailable.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.

NOTICE.—Messrs. Ballantine and Sons, 11, Honby Row, Bombay, will send samples of Dr. Rabuteau's Iron Dragees free by mail, to any physician lesirous o experimenting and comparing them with other ferrugi nous preparations. In Russia, the Medical Board o Health of St. Petersburg, after careful study of the sub ject, has ordered the importation of Rabuteau's Iro Dragees as a *Medicine of Public utility*. Rabuteau' Iron is adopted in the Paris Hospital and in the larg Institutions. In the most trying climates, Rabuteau Iron produces good effects.

Government Notification.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 4, 1891.

GENERAL.—Mr Asutosh Gupta, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and to have charge of the Chuadanga sub-division of the district of Nadiya, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Mymensing.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Steuart, Commandant, Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, is allowed leave of absence for twelve months, with effect from the 1st March 1891.

Major R Thomas is appointed to act of Commandant, Cossipur Artillery Volunteers, during the absence, on leave of Lieutenant-Colonel J. N Steuart, or until further orders.

Mr G J B T Dalton, Magistrate and Collector, Faridpur, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Durbhunga, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr C R Marindin, or until further orders.

Mr T L L Jenkins, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Faridpur, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district, during the absence, on deputation, on Mr J T B T Dalton, or until further orders.

Mr Kader Nath Roy, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, is allowed leave for two months, under arcicle 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the afternoon of the 28th instant.

Mr. D Cameron, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Howrah.

The services of Mr. E H C Walsh, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhagulpore, are placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department of this Government.

Babu Niranjan Bhattacharjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhum, is allowed leave for two months, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr A W B Power, C S, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 21st instant.

Mr G G Dey, Officiating District Sessions and Judge, Midnapur, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the 1st grade of District and Sessions Judges, with effect from the 12th instant, vice Mr H Beveridge, on furlough.

Mr D R Lyall, C S I, Commissioner of Chittagong, is allowed furlough for eight months, under article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 7th March 1891.

Mr W B Oldham, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is appointed to act as Commissioner of that Division, during the absence, on furlough, on Mr D R Lyall, C S I, or until further orders.

Mr R W Carlyle, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Maulvi Syed Mahomed Nasiruddin, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Dina Nath Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 to be exercised in that district.

Mr C Johnston, C S, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for three months on medical certificate.

Second Lieutenant J Steen, Cossipur Artillery Volunteers, is allowed leave of absence for six months, with effect from the 10th instant.

JAILS.—Mr A D Larymore, Officiating Inspector-General of Jails, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 1st March 1891, or such subsequent date as he may be relieved.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—The services of the Rev. C H Barlow, Chaplain of Barrackpur, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department, with effect from the 2nd March 1891, or from such date as he may be relieved.

REGISTRATION.—Maulvi Afzaluddin Ahmad, Special Sub-Registrar, Patna, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th March 1891.

Maulvi Fazlullah, Rural Sub-Registrar, Jehanabad, Gya is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Patna, during the absence, on leave, of Maulvi Afzaluddin Ahmad, or until further orders.

Maulvi Syed Ali Rashid is appointed to act as Rural Sub-Registrar of Jehanabad, Gya, during the absence, on deputation, of Maulvi Fazullah, or until further orders.

EDUCATION.—Babu Tarak Bandhu Chakravarti, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Chittagong, is appointed, until further orders, to have charge of the current duties of the Office of the Assistant Inspector of Schools in that division, in addition to his own, and to act in class III of the Subordinate Educational Service, with effect from the 12th February 1891.

MEDICAL.—Assistant Surgeon Mutty Lall Mukerjee, of the charitable dispensary at Durbhunga, held medical charge of the civil station of that district, in addition to his own duties, from the 16th to the 18th December 1890, both days inclusive.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Babu Debendra Lall Shome is reappointed to act, until further orders, as Subordinate Judge of Rungpur, with effect from the date on which his substantive *pro tempore* appointed to Additional Subordinate Judge of Patna ceased, viz., from the afternoon of the 20th September 1890.

Babu Mohendra Kumar Ghose, Officiating Munsiff of Satkania, in the district of Chittagong, is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the same district, to be ordinarily stationed at North Raojan, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Poresh Nath Chatterjee, or until further orders.

Mr H M Parish, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is vested with powers equivalent to those of a Magistrate of the second class.

Maulvi Tazmul Ali is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Bhuddruck, in the district of Balasore, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Mr J G Ritchie, Officiating Deputy Commissioner and Subordinate Judge, Darjeeling, is vested with the powers conferred on District Judges by sections 344 to 359 (both inclusive) of the Code of Civil Procedure for the disposal of applications of insolvent judgment-debtors.

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Every prospective buyer of a Lawn Mower intends to get the best. But how is the best to be determined? The market is full of Mowers, each claiming to be just as good or better than all others, and unless the buyer is thoroughly informed on the subject he will be very likely to purchase a worthless and altogether unsatisfactory machine. It is not the purpose of the makers of the "Bay State" mower to resort to meaningless generalities in advertising this machine, but to point out in detail every improved feature and fully describe wherein the "Bay State" is superior to all their Lawn Mower. To this end attention is called to the following.

The "Bay State" Lawn Mower has been on the market six years. Its sales have doubled each succeeding year, and it is now sold by nearly all the best retail hardware houses. Without a single exception, wherever it has been introduced, whether on public park or private lawn, it has been pronounced the perfection of Lawn Mowers, and every machine is sold with and absolute and unconditional guarantee. *Backed up by our Cash System, quick return and no bad debts, we offer to the public this Mower at prices just over half what American Mowers are now being sold at in India.*

Width of Cut	10 inch	12 inch	16 inch	18 inch
Price of each...Rs.	26	30	40	45
Packing and Despatching ,,	1-8	1-8	2	2-8

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WARRANTED to cure pains of every description arising from whatever cause, on any part of the human frame. A certain cure for Pains in the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Mumps, Tightness of the Chest, Bronchitis, Diphtheria, Headache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Colic, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Sciatica, Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Swellings, Old Sores, Ulcers, Piles, Ringworm, Pimples, and Eruptions of the Skin. Many of the best Physicians of the day prescribe DARLINGTON'S PAIN-CURER in the very worst forms of these ailments with success.

Pains of every description have been cured by the use of DARLINGTON'S PAIN-CURER only when all other medicines have been tried without effect. Per bottle, Re. 1; large size, Rs. 2; Packing & Postage, As. 8. The words PAIN-CURER & NO MORE PAINS!!! are our Trade Marks. Thousands of testimonials of its marvellous effects. Mrs. A. Greenway writes from Umballa: "Please send me by return post 6 bottles of DARLINGTON'S PAIN-CURER as I cannot do without it. It has been of great use to my family, saved me." His Excellency Sir Salar Jung, G. C. S. I. ordered a couple of large bottles of DARLINGTON'S PAIN-CURER found it efficacious & has adopted the medicine for his family & household use & from time to time has taken upwards of 100 large bottles of the same through Major Percy Gough, Private & Military Secretary to H. E. the Minister of Hyderabad. ☞ Beware of imitations. ☜ Examine the bottle, and see it has the Seal, Label, and Wrapper of Darlington and Co. ☜ Call for Darlington's Pain-Curer and see that you get it. Directions accompany each bottle.

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BATHGATE & CO.

CHEMISTS TO THE VICEROY

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MAYO BOUQUET,

Dedicated by kind permission to the Countess of Mayo, with whom it was a favourite perfume during her residence in India. Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 5.

PRINCE OF WALES' BOUQUET,

Manufactured originally on the occasion of H. R Highness's visit to India; it has ever since been a popular perfume, delicate, sweet, and lasting. In bottles, at Rs. 5.

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This fine old-fashioned perfume is still as popular as ever, and is everywhere preferred to that of other makers. It is prepared from the choicest flowers grown in England, and is the most refreshing and lasting of all perfumes. In bottles, Rs. 2. Rs. 4 and Rs. 7-8.

ESSENCES.

White Rose.	Wood Violets.
Ess. Bouquet.	Opoponax.
Khus Khus.	Jasmin.
Frangipanni.	New Mown Hay.
Stephanotis.	Rondeletia.
Jockey Club.	Neroli.
Ylang Ylang.	Oriental Bouquet, &c.

In bottles, Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 4. each.

These Perfumes are imported direct from the principal distillery in the South of France in *Coppers* and bottled in our Laboratory.

The chief features in these Perfumes are that they possess the most exquisite flavour, and, being in a concentrated form, are particularly lasting.

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An excellent cosmetic for the skin, which it renders left, fair, and beautiful, contains no animal fat. In pots at Re. 1. and Rs. 1-8 each.

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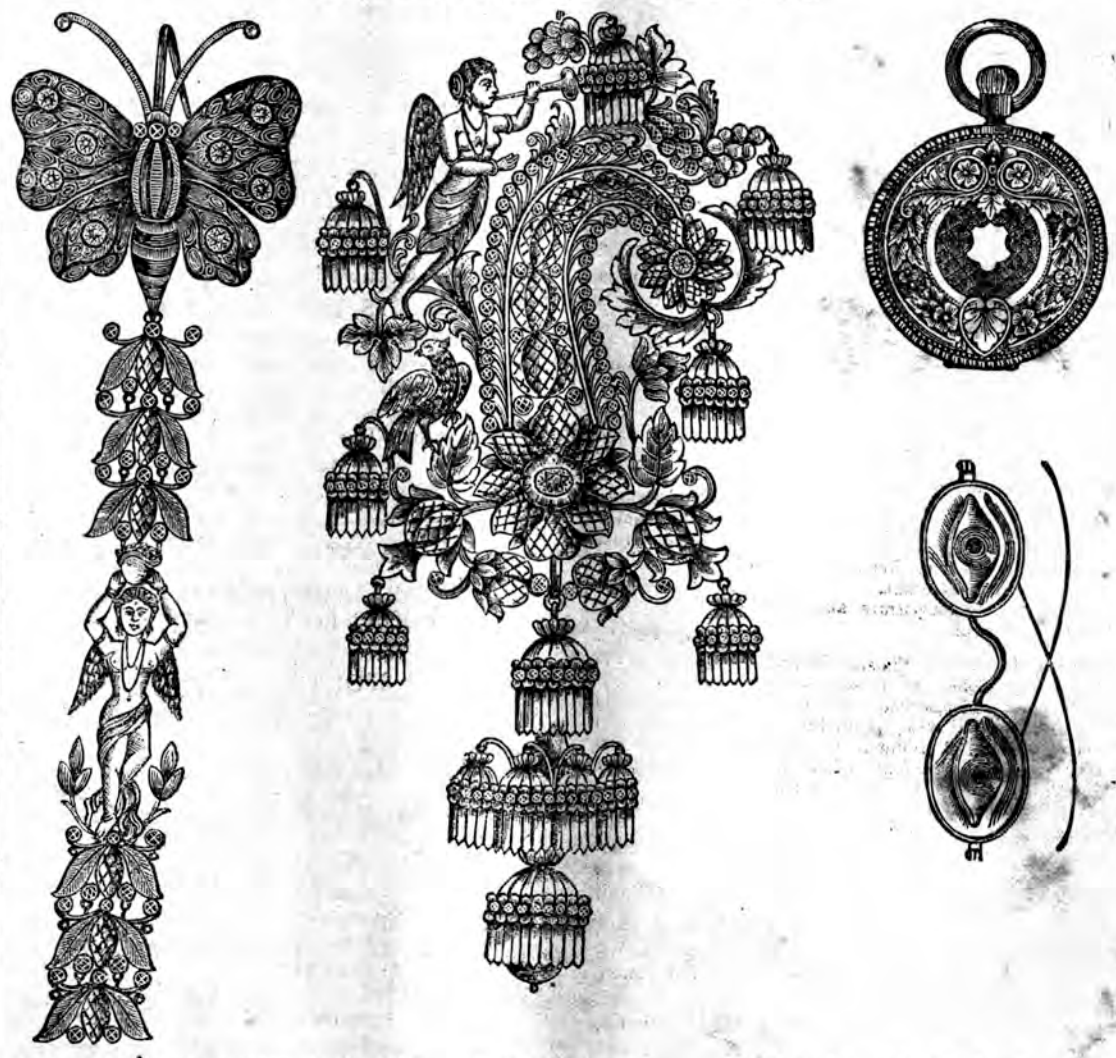

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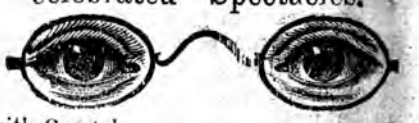

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